



CIRCUS TALK

Valerie Grove and the clown princess

Modern Times, page 14



TELEVISION

How the BBC will face a new century

Pages 6 and 15



YACHTING

The man who sold dreams is drowned

Page 40

INFOTECH

ON FRIDAY
Pages 34,35

THE TIMES

No. 64,501

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45p

The Queen offers to pay tax on her personal income

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen is to start paying income tax on her private fortune and to finance Civil List payments to her children and sister. She will also pay council tax on her homes at Balmoral and Sandringham.

John Major made the announcement that the sovereign was relinquishing a 55-year-old exemption from tax liability during prime minister's questions in the House of Commons, many of whose members have been agitating for months for a reduction in monarchical privilege.

Buckingham Palace made clear last night that the initiative had come from the Queen herself, and had first been mooted last July. Demands for the royal family to be less of a burden on the taxpayer reached a peak in the wake of last week's Windsor Castle fire, when the government announced it would meet the full cost of restoring the building. But the monarch appears to have been several steps ahead of some of her backbench MPs.

The Palace said the Queen

instantly to ease the growing anxiety among Conservative MPs that the spate of bad publicity surrounding the royal family this year was in danger of spilling over into the government. He, too, made it clear that discussions had begun back in the summer, removing any suggestion that it was a hastily-conceived reaction to the Windsor fire.

"The Queen asked me to consider the basis on which she might voluntarily pay tax, and further suggested she might take responsibility for certain payments under the current Civil List arrangements. The Prince of Wales has made a similar request with regard to the Duchy of Cornwall," Mr Major said.

Downing Street confirmed that the initial approach had been made by the Queen in July, when Palace, Treasury and Inland Revenue officials began work on the proposals. The Queen and the prime minister discussed the idea further during Mr Major's visit to Balmoral in September.

They appear to have agreed the final details of the announcement during the regular weekly audience on Tuesday evening. John Smith, the Opposition leader, was briefed by Mr Major the next day on confidential Privy Council terms. The prime minister said he planned to make a more detailed statement in the new year.

Under arrangements expected to be in place at the start of the new tax year next April, the Queen will pay about £870,000 a year for the Civil List allowances of the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, Prince Edward, Princess Margaret and Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. The taxpayer will continue to fund the working expenses of the Queen herself, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, which now total £9 million a year. The Queen already refunds the Civil List costs — about £630,000 — of the dukes of Gloucester and Kent and of Princess Alexandra.

In common with all her subjects, the Queen will also open her bank accounts to the Inland Revenue and the Treasury, who will face the byzantine task of deciding to which allowances she might be entitled. Her £3 million annual income from the Duchy of Lancaster, largely used to subsidise her public duties, will be subject to scrutiny, as will her wholly private holdings of stocks, land and property, including her homes at Sandringham and Balmoral.

Almost nothing is known of the Queen's private finances, protected as they are by law from examination at Companies House or through any other channels. At a Commons select committee in 1971 Lord Cobbold, then the



1992: the Queen relinquishes a 55-year tax exemption. Her decision may defuse the furor over who should pay for the Windsor blaze



1760: George III gives up Crown lands income



1842: Victoria becomes first monarch to pay income tax



1937: George VI does a tax exemption deal with No 10

MPs give decision a mixed reaction

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, welcomed the announcement of the Queen's decision to pay tax, but some MPs complained the changes did not go far enough. Nevertheless, John Major's statement yesterday quickly eased growing Tory anxiety that the spate of bad publicity surrounding the royal family was spilling over on to the government.

Lord St John of Fawsley, a constitutional expert, said the move showed the Queen was "closely in touch with the interests and feelings of her people".

But Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrats' home affairs spokesman, said: "The Queen's decision... to raise the issue of the finances of the monarchy raises wider questions... The Civil List cannot be considered apart from the purposes to which it is put. What Britain needs is a modern monarchy with a modern constitution."

Alan Williams, Labour, who has campaigned for the changes, described the news as "an enormous victory for Parliament and for the taxpayer".

Dennis Skinner, Labour, said: "It is not how much the Queen pays, it is how much she will get away with... When I first raised the matter about the Queen paying tax, it was greeted with derision in the Commons. Now they have seen the light."

Howard signals £1,000 top council tax bills

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COUNCIL tax bills of £1,000 per household for the most expensive properties in England were signposted yesterday by Michael Howard, the environment secretary, as the government made clear that it was giving town halls one last chance to make a system of local taxation work.

Delivering the last rites to the poll tax, which is replaced by the new property-based tax in April, Mr Howard underlined his determination to prevent another local government fiasco and to keep bills in check. He unveiled a £340 million transitional relief scheme that will hold down maximum losses under the new system to £3.50 a week for people living in the biggest houses, tapering to £1.75 a week for owners of the smallest properties.

Mr Howard also set out capping rules of unprecedented severity in order to make councils stay close to Whitehall targets for their overall spending. One angry Labour backbencher branded him the "Marshall Street strangler" slowly choking the life out of democratic local government. But the environment secretary insisted that the rules were needed to protect local taxpayers against unreasonable demands by local authorities.

The detailed arithmetic of the council tax was set out against a background of private warnings by ministers that if the third system of local government finance in four years did not stick, town halls would lose their tax-raising powers. One minister said that if it failed it was difficult to see any government going through the parliamentary pain of introducing yet another formula.

Opposition MPs led by Jack

Continued on page 8, col 1
Tony Travis, page 16
Leading article, page 17



regarded her offer as "an appropriate step to take in 1990s", and that a key objective was to reduce the burden of the Civil List, now about £10 million a year, on the taxpayer. The move was supported by the Prince of Wales, whose financial affairs will also come under review. Yesterday's announcement does not, however, affect the government's commitment to the rebuilding of Windsor.

The news comes only two days after the Queen's poignant *annus horribilis* speech at Guildhall during which she indicated, perhaps with more significance than was appreciated at the time, that she was not resistant to change.

Making the announcement during Commons question time, Mr Major appeared

Lord Chamberlain, said that reports of a £50 million fortune were "wildly exaggerated."

Since then, the Queen has been obliged to dig deeply into both capital and income to keep her show on the road. Best estimates suggest that her private wealth is now something over £30 million, and that if it yielded a 10 per cent return which were taxed at the higher rate of 40 per cent, it would produce about £12 million a year for the Inland

Revenue. Downing Street confirmed unofficially last night that an estimate of well under £50 million was not far out.

Tax liability notwithstanding, the Queen's money is likely to remain a closely guarded secret. The Palace

Continued on page 3, col 6
George III's gift, and Peter Riddell, page 3
John Grigg, page 16
Leading article and letters, page 17

De Klerk goes for 1994 poll

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN
IN PRETORIA

PRESIDENT de Klerk signalled a new era in South African politics last night with a commitment to a multi-racial government by the middle of 1994 functioning under a new transitional constitution which will provide for an elected parliament and executive.

"We urge all political parties to co-operate... our ability to meet these target dates will depend on the co-operation of the other major parties," he said.

But the new proposals were swiftly attacked by the African National Congress. "South Africa cannot afford any delay in the process," the ANC said in a statement. "The economy cannot sustain a further year of corruption and mismanagement."

Mr de Klerk said that preparatory talks for a free political campaign of voter education and the later than expected 1994.

Mr Poll target, page 13

UK aims to cut Delors budget

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITAIN will propose in Brussels today a significant reduction in European Community spending. Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, has sought to increase the Community's budget to £64.5 billion by 1999, but Britain wants to cut this back by £4 billion.

John Major believes that an agreement on financing the Community is essential if progress is to be made at the Edinburgh summit next month on such issues as subsidiarity and enlargement of the Community.

While delegations are meeting of the Grid Trade in Geneva, the EC states are also working on a new agreement to support the French argument against last week's farm subsidy deal between the EC and America.

If Belgium and Spain swing behind France, this could be sufficient to block the deal without the threatened French veto.

Brussels gives, page 10
Gulf deadline, page 11

Lamont bank leak angers No 10

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOWNING Street was doing its best last night to shrug off the latest dent to the Chancellor's credibility as it was confirmed that Norman Lamont had failed to pay off an outstanding Access credit-card bill.

However, officials were evidently angry that details of Mr Lamont's personal finances had leaked from the National Westminster Bank in what appeared to be a serious breach of confidentiality. Natwest launched an investigation to find out who had leaked the details.

Amid obvious gibes about Mr Lamont's ability to run the finances of the country, Downing Street maintained that the Chancellor had not received his latest bill because of building works at No 11

Downing Street during the summer recess. An official indicated that Mr Lamont would be raising the issue of confidentiality with the bank. "Every individual is entitled to a certain privacy in terms of financial dealings."

The news of Mr Lamont's financial problems — later overshadowed by the Queen's finances — was seized on by Labour MPs to ridicule the beleaguered Chancellor and undermine his credibility yet again. Although Conservative MPs rallied round Mr Lamont, jokes were swapped about "green plastic shoots of recovery" at his expense.

Bob Cryer, MP for Bradford, used yesterday's Commons statement on the council tax to raise the issue. "Some of those on the front

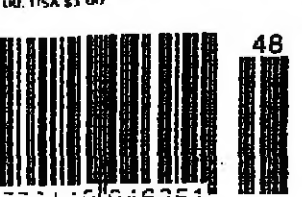
bench cannot get control of their own finances, let alone those of the country," he said. Downing Street said that Mr Lamont had made quite a good job at the latter. "The Chancellor is doing his bit to sort out the nation's finances. He kept to the planning total in the Autumn Statement."

Officials refused to confirm reports in *The Sun* newspaper, that Mr Lamont had repeatedly broken his overdraft limit of £2,000, which this time he had exceeded by £470. However, it was alleged in the report that he had been sent five legal warnings from Access for failing to keep up

Continued on page 2, col 4
Hunt for mole, page 2
Anthony Howard and Diary, page 10

INDEX	
Arts	29-31
Births, marriages, deaths	18-19
Business	21-27
Concise Crossword	40
Court and Social	18
Crossword	20
Infotech	34-35
Leading articles	17
Letters	17, 25, 36
Modern Times	14, 15
Motoring	33
Obituaries	19
Racing	37
Sport	36-38, 40
Times Today	20
Weather	20
Your Own Business	28
TV & radio	39

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

As 40-year reign is celebrated, Her Majesty consents to contribute to nation's coffers



Members of the Colet Court boys' choir, from St Paul's preparatory school in Barnes, southwest London, provide a vocal accompaniment while helping to plant 40 trees in Hyde Park to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. The Duke of Kent planted the first tree in a ceremony which also marked the start of National Tree Week, organised by the Tree Council, when thousands of groups of 40 trees will be planted throughout the country

How the Crown gave away income of £70m a year

By ALAN HAMILTON

HAD George III not surrendered most of the Crown lands to the government in 1760 in exchange for a salary known as the Civil List, the royal family would today have an annual income of more than £70 million. But the Crown Estate is traditionally given over to the Treasury at the beginning of each reign and the Exchequer pockets its proceeds.

Today the Civil List is not so much a salary as a tax-free allowance to enable the Queen and other members of her family to carry out their public duties. The money is intended to be working expenses and most is spent on staff salaries in the royal households.

The Queen's allowance also covers items such as maintenance of cars, running kitchens and cellars for official entertaining, laundry, flowers, garden parties, presents for other heads of state and the upkeep of the horses and carriages of the Royal Mews.

Three junior members of "the firm", the Dukes of Gloucester and Kent and Princess Alexandra, receive an allowance but their share is refunded to the Treasury by the Queen from her private income from the Duchy of Lancaster, one of the few remaining vestiges of Crown land that still accrue directly — and tax-free — to the monarch.

In more financially stable times the Civil List was fixed at the beginning of each reign, but in the inflationary 1970s the Queen had to go crown in hand to the then prime minister, Harold Wilson, and plead poverty. From 1975 the list was reviewed — and increased — on every Budget day. But in 1990 Margaret Thatcher arranged a ten-year deal, on the grounds that it was more in keeping with the dignity of the crown and more practical for long-term financial planning.

The Queen	7,900,000
Duke of Edinburgh	359,000
Queen Mother	643,000
Princess Royal	228,000
Princess Margaret	219,000
Duke of York	249,000
Prince Edward	98,000
Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester	87,000
Duke of Gloucester	87,000
Duke of Kent	87,000
Princess Alexandra	87,000
Total	636,000*

* Reduced by the Queen

In return, the Palace promised cost savings of £5 million over the period and brought in Michael Peat, a partner in one of the City's leading accountancy firms, to the new post of director of finance and property services. At the same time responsibility for the occupied royal palaces was transferred from the environment department to the royal household with a separate budget of about £24 million a year.

Overall responsibility for the royal household's finances, and how much the government pays, rests with the three royal trustees: the prime minister, the Chancellor and Sir Shane Blewitt, Keeper of the Privy Purse and effectively the Queen's treasurer.

Many MPs now say that too many members of the family are benefiting from the Civil List and that it should be restricted to the Queen as

monarch, the Duke of Edinburgh as consort and the Queen Mother as queen dowager deserving of a decent pension.

There is an acceptance that in such a case, other members of the family would perform far fewer public duties. They could, however, continue with their various charity work if the charities were prepared to pay their expenses; the Princess Royal, for example, could continue as president of Save the Children, which already foots the bill for her visits to their work abroad.

An exception to the Civil List is the Prince of Wales, who funds the staff and public duties of himself and his wife entirely out of the annual profits, currently £2.5 million, of the Duchy of Cornwall and its 125,000 acres of farm and urban land. Before he married, the Prince paid half the

Duchy profits to the Treasury in lieu of income tax; now he pays a quarter. Critics say he is paying tax on a substantial income at the basic rate of 25 per cent, when any less privileged citizen would be paying 40 per cent.

The Queen apart, all other members of the royal family pay tax on their private income like any other citizen. If the Duke of Edinburgh or the Prince of Wales write books, their royalties are taxed (although in practice they tend to give proceeds to charity). The Princess Royal pays normal tax on any profits from her Gatcombe farm; Sir Angus Ogilvy is taxed on his City directors' fees. All but the Queen pay normal tax on income from their private investments.

Before the second world war, even sovereigns paid tax on their private funds. When income tax was introduced last century, Queen Victoria was one of the first to offer to pay. The present exemption stems from deals done between King George VI and the then prime minister, Stanley Baldwin, in 1937, largely as a *quid pro quo* from the crown to avoid the government having to fund the Duke of Windsor in exile.

Two years ago the Prince of Wales floated the idea that the monarchy might return to the old system of living off the Crown Estate. Current profits in excess of £70 million would more than fund all aspects of monarchy, from the Civil List to the royal yacht, the Queen's Flight and the occupied royal palaces.

At the same time, the prince hinted, it would take the whole business of royal financing out of the political arena. The notion fell on deaf ears at the time; it may have been two years too early.

Queen's offer, page 1
Leading article, page 17

Efficiency check is welcomed

BUCKINGHAM Palace has warmly welcomed the impending examination by the Commons public accounts committee into the running of the occupied palaces, convinced that their operation is efficient and cost-effective (Alan Hamilton writes).

According to figures from the national heritage department, taxpayers gave £24 million towards the upkeep of the palaces in 1991-2. The figure has dropped to £21.8 million in the current financial year and will fall to £19.4 million in 1993-4. The buildings covered are Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Kensington and St James's Palace, and Clarence House. Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Edinburgh, which will host

PALACES

next month's European summit, is maintained by a separate allowance from the Scottish Office.

Yesterday's announcement of impending changes in the civil list and the Queen's tax position do not affect the funding of the palaces, although the Commons committee about to examine their funding may suggest changes. Historic palaces, chiefly Hampton Court and the Tower of London, are funded separately through a different government agency, being essentially tourist attractions.

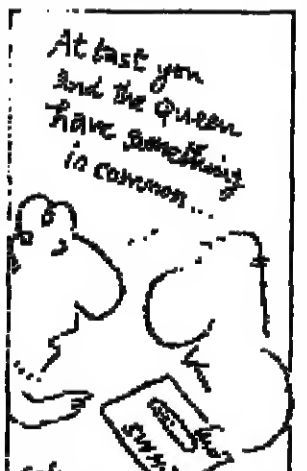
Royal palaces were once the responsibility of the environment department and have been in the care of the government since 1981. In 1990 responsibility for managing the occupied palaces passed from the environment department to the royal household.

Exemption ends after 55 years

Continued from page 1
said last night that she would enjoy the same confidentiality as any other taxpayer. How much she would have to pay would be calculated in discussions between the royal household, the Treasury and the Inland Revenue.

At present the Prince of Wales supports himself, his wife and their staff from the profits of the Duchy of Cornwall, which yield £2.5 million a year. He voluntarily donates a quarter to the Treasury in lieu of tax, but under the new arrangements his liability is likely to rise to 40 per cent, in common with other taxpayers earning such amounts. Before his marriage, the Prince surrendered half the Duchy revenues to the Treasury.

Many of the main expenses of monarchy, such as the aircraft of the Queen's Flight, the royal yacht Britannia, and the royal train, are funded neither by the Civil List nor the Queen herself, but through the Ministry of Defence and other departmental budgets to a total tune of about £46 million a year. They remain unaffected by yesterday's announcement, chiefly on the grounds that they are already subject to full audit and parliamentary scrutiny.



How the taxman will waste no time

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

IF THE Queen decides to pay tax from April 6, her first tax return will not land on the doormat until a year later. But her income will drop immediately, according to David Rothenberg, a partner of the chartered accountants Blick Rothenberg.

"It is believed that she is a shareholder in a large number of quoted companies and that her dividends are paid gross. That would stop as soon as she started paying tax," he said.

From April 6 the Queen will have a personal tax allowance, at present £3,445. She will be able to earn that much without paying tax and will have the right to claim half the married couple's tax allowance of £1,720, without the Duke of Edinburgh's permission. If he agrees she can have the lot and earn £5,165 before paying tax.

Like all other taxpayers she will be allowed to make gains of up to £5,500 a year free of tax. Mr Rothenberg questions whether the Queen would

her whole share portfolio to reduce her tax liability. This is the process where investors sell their shares at the end of the tax year and then buy them back to give a new value for tax purposes.



"She would need to bed and breakfast to extinguish liabilities. She will have assets pregnant with gain," he said. "It would need a special law for her only to count gains from April."

Mr Rothenberg believes that only her investment income will be taxed. Her first tax return will have to detail all interest, dividends, income and any disposals of shares or other assets.

Her investments could also be subject to inheritance tax. She will have to dispose of her wealth seven years before her death to avoid this. Items of national heritage can be exempted but the public would

Palace coup shows classic signs of put-up job

The Queen and her prime minister, assisted by the leader of the loyal Opposition, brought off a skilful political coup yesterday. A combination of surprise and apparent generosity regained the initiative for Buckingham Palace. But there is less to the decision than implied by the initial headlines.

The Queen's decision to pay taxes on her personal income and to reimburse the exchequer for civil list payments to five members of the royal family is a shrewd political move, but it is not a radical one. The concession is voluntary and does not alter the underlying structure of the royal finances or the ten-year agreement on the civil list announced in 1990. Moreover, in paying taxes the Queen is following the practice of George V and Queen Victoria.

The limited nature of the changes is underlined by the way that the affair has been handled. It has been a classic establishment operation. The suggestion was first made by the Queen herself during the summer and was then discussed by a small group of officials in Buckingham Palace.

The timing of yesterday's announcement, ahead of completion of a detailed memorandum of understanding, was not a matter of chance but a response to the arguments of the past few days. John Smith, the Labour leader, was informed about the talks earlier in the week on the usual confidential privy counsellor basis. He then raised the issue with Mr Major at prime minister's questions yesterday, in part to show that Labour agreed with what had been decided. It looked the put-up job that it was.

No one gains politically out of the affair, although Mr Major has handled it with delicacy, discretion and skill. Relations with the monarchy are very much a matter for the prime minister himself and, despite his other distractions, he has spent much time in discussions not just with the Queen and her advisers over her finances but also with other members of the royal family over handling the publicity about their personal lives.

come increasingly worried about the damage being done to the monarchy as an institution by recent revelations about their marriages and by the controversy over the Queen's finances. There has been no collective discussion, but much private concern coupled with strong criticism of the intrusive tabloid coverage of the royal marriages.

At no stage in all these discussions has Parliament been involved. Indeed, yesterday, Mr Major turned down Robert Sheldon's suggestion that the issues should be fully examined by a select committee of the Commons. Instead, there is just to be an enquiry by Mr Sheldon's public accounts committee into the finances of the occupied royal palaces. Mr That hardly put to more Mr Major's consent. All political open government differentials behave royal family, as towards Mr Major and Mr Smith both yesterday. It is a show almost never raised by MPs and generally mentioned only by Labour mavericks.

But yesterday's announcement will not, and should not, be the end of the matter.

The monarchy may now be more willing to expose itself to scrutiny but that does not mean we are about to move to a Scandinavian style of royal family. The existing structure and conventions remain in place. There may be a big change in practice in the royal finances but there is no change of principle so far, though there was the suggestion in Whitehall yesterday of a more fundamental review when there is a change of monarch.

All but a small handful of republicans and certain anti-monarchy activists should remain with the Queen. Other than the tabloids over recent events. But many more MPs, generally but not exclusively, believe that the time is right for a review of the monarch's constitutional powers and prerogatives. The Queen and the prime minister yesterday bought time but they have not ended the debate.

PETER RIDDELL

ON THURSDAY

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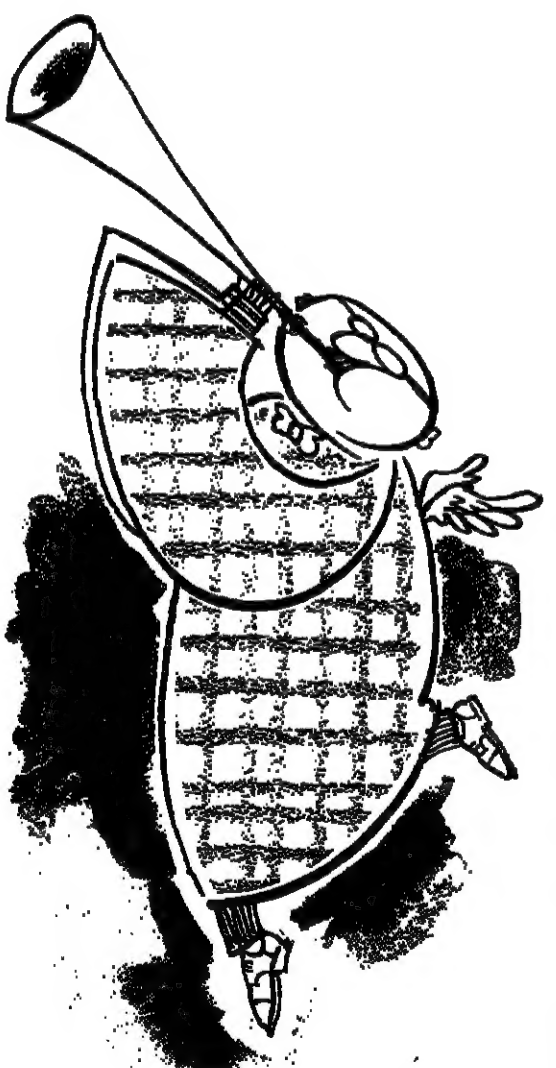
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Dialogue despite ordination of women

Vatican keeps door open for reunion

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Vatican figure says today that dialogue on reconciliation between the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches will continue, despite the decision by the Church of England to ordain women priests.

But Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, also said that the decision to ordain women priests is perceived in Rome as a clean break with tradition.

The interview with Cardinal Cassidy, in the influential Catholic journal *The Tablet*, is the first lengthy comment from the Vatican on the Anglican decision. Immediately after the decision earlier this month, the Vatican issued a brief statement describing it as a "new and grave obstacle to reconciliation".

Cardinal Cassidy's interview will be welcomed by Anglo-Catholics who wish to remain within the Church of England but are concerned

that its decision puts it out of step with the rest of Catholic Christendom. It comes at a time when the list of women deacons who want to be ordained in the Church of England has reached 1,400.

Cardinal Cassidy supports statements made last week by the Right Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, co-chairman of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, the body responsible for dialogue between the two churches.

Bishop Murphy-O'Connor, of Arundel and Brighton, said the Anglican decision was not a legitimate one according to Catholic tradition today. But he could not say how the development would be regarded by bishops in fifty or a hundred years' time.

It is considered significant that Cardinal Cassidy did not describe the decision as a total block to unity between the two churches. He said merely that it created an obstacle on the path to full communion be-

tween the Catholic Church and the Church of England.

He said this should not lead anyone to jump to conclusions. The purpose of dialogue was "to find a way — not around the obstacle — but to remove the obstacle".

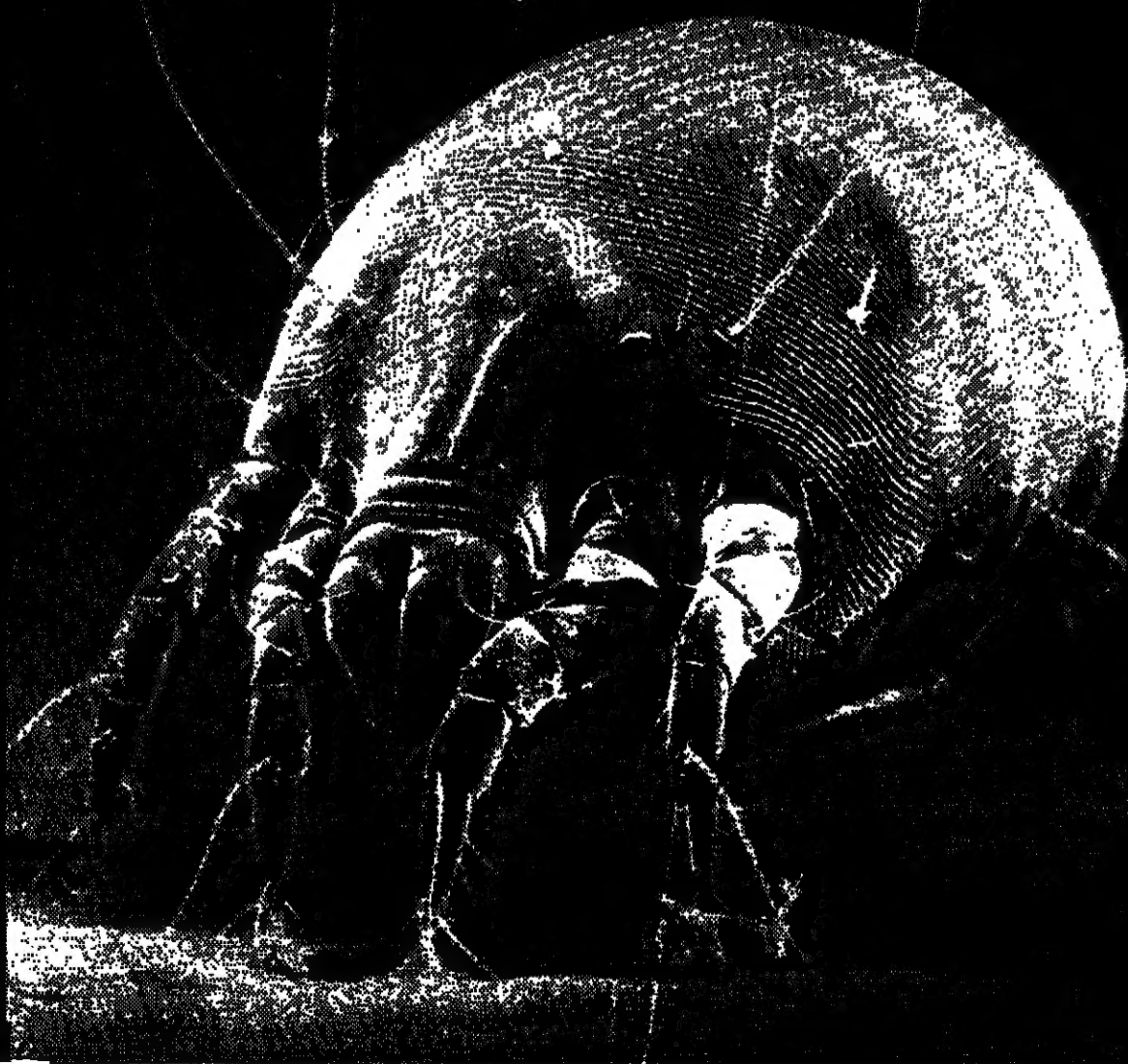
Cardinal Cassidy said: "When we enter into ecumenical dialogue, we take our faith as it is today. We bring our identity. But we also try to remain open to the Holy Spirit, who is working for the unity of Christians. It is not for us to tell the Holy Spirit what's to be done."

However, he did not believe the Holy Spirit was talking to the Christian churches through the Church of England. "We would reject that the Holy Spirit is talking to the church through this decision, because the Holy Spirit does not contradict himself. He has spoken to the church for almost 2,000 years in one way. It would be very strange if he spoke in a different way now."



Taking note: a model conferring with the London Symphony Brass Ensemble at Wednesday night's fashion gala at the Grosvenor Hotel

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Moschino shares his fashion jests

By IAIN R WEBB, FASHION EDITOR

DESPITE the downturn, hair-dos stayed high as London's glitterati turned out in force to welcome Franco Moschino to London. The Italian "bad boy" designer delighted the audience with his first British fashion show which, as expected, provided more than just a chance to see the designer's new lines.

Moschino is a renowned joker: he has fun with clothes and has firmly ensured a place in fashion's hall of fame by asking his fans (of whom there are many) to buy an expensive jacket with "expensive jacket" picked out in gold across the back, or a dress with "waist of money" embroidered around its middle. His clothes sell and sell. In September the Moschino Couture boutique opened at Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge, London.

Another first for Wednesday evening's charity gala show at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane was the musical accompaniment provided by the London Symphony Brass Ensemble, who joined with Moschino to raise money for the London Symphony Orchestra Endowment Trust. The fund was established in 1989 to provide finance for the development of the orches-

tra, and to help to pay for its community and education projects. The audience for the evening included Sting and his wife, Trudi, the designer Bruce Oldfield, Marie Helvin and Susan Sangster.

The show began with a stroll through the archives. Boredom diners looked up from their coffee to see models making their way between the tables before mounting the catwalk centred on the orchestra. First came a Regency-style ballgown, teamed wittily with a leather motor cycle jacket and plimsolls, next a model carrying a kettle as a handbag, followed closely by another with a vertical take-off aircraft as a hat.

Moschino's takes on the accepted images of fashion are infamous, so his spring collection for 1993 was not surprising, taking Mary Quant's daisy-age Carnaby Street and turning it on its head and following that with deconstructed Chanel-type suits.

Moschino enjoys a joke. When he took the microphone to say, as he put it, "just two words", he followed with "Thank you" and "Very welcome". Moschino: always the comedian.

Epileptics cleared for TV games

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS of epileptic children need not avoid buying them computer games because of the risk of a seizure, the British Epilepsy Association said yesterday. The association was responding to a decision by the leading games manufacturers Sega and Nintendo to include warnings with their games.

The fast-moving games, which can be played on television sets or hand-held consoles, involve guiding creatures such as Sonic the Hedgehog through exploding obstacle courses populated by maniacal opponents. The light patterns may induce epileptic seizure.

But the association said that only 5 per cent of epileptic children were photosensitive and susceptible to seizures triggered by flashing lights, televisions or the computer games.

"All children want these games and we think it is too small a problem to deny them," it said. "Children with epilepsy should be treated as far as possible like other children." One in 200 people have epilepsy and three quarters are diagnosed under the age of 20.

Computer games have the potential to cause a seizure in sensitive people because their flicker rate is low and they are designed for players sitting close to the screen. The association said that a family in South Wales had contacted it after their teenage daughter had a fit while playing a Nintendo game.

Her parents had not realised that computer games posed a risk and discovered a warning inside the packaging only after her seizure was

£1,000 for garden sold in error

A woman whose garden was sold by a council to neighbours in a flat upstairs is to receive £1,000 compensation. Dorothy Pattinson had earlier asked the council at Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, for permission to fence in land in front of her ground floor flat. Consent was given and she spent £400 on fencing, shrubs and plants.

When the occupants of the first floor flat applied to buy their home, North Tyneside Council sold them the garden too. The local authority ombudsman has ordered it to pay the compensation.

Mrs Pattinson, 37, said yesterday: "I never started this action because of the cash. I had no legal access to the garden, even though I had spent all that money on it."

Boxer case

Peter Foster, 37, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was remanded in custody charged with the attempted murder of the former British and European heavyweight boxing champion, John L. Gardner, and with wounding his wife, at the pub managed by the couple.

Cell hanging

Andrew Bieriacki, 43, of Exeter, jailed in 1975 for the manslaughter of his mother-in-law, with whom he had had an affair, was found hanging in his cell at Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight.

Undaunted

A postmaster at Frestwich, Greater Manchester, lost his artificial leg during a scuffle with three armed raiders. They left him handcuffed but he managed to dial 999 with

Delay
anthology
pupils

family
died in
Cumbria

Delay over English anthology threatens pupils' exam results

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE government's examination advisers today issued details of next year's national curriculum tests for 14-year-olds without reaching agreement on the anthology that will form the basis of testing in English.

Schools will not receive copies of the 20-page anthology until February for testing early in June. The School Examinations and Assessment Council, which has issued a list of authors to be studied by lower-ability groups, argued yesterday that the delay was beneficial because it would prevent schools "teaching to the test". However, the anthology will be used for at least the next three years.

Agreement is still to be reached on authors and on the mix of modern and pre-20th century literature. Some Shakespeare will be included, as well as a short story, poetry and several extracts from novels.

Fourteen-year-olds of average ability and above will also be tested on three Shakespeare plays: *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *Romeo and Juliet*. Others will have a selection of 30 books, which mix Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson with more modern authors.

About 600,000 pupils in state schools will face almost 12 hours of tests over a fortnight. Many leading independent schools are threaten-

Slow learners will be tested on Kipling next year, while other 14-year-olds must wait to hear which authors are required reading

ing to boycott the tests on the grounds that they are too simplistic and risk a return to old-fashioned learning methods.

Most tests will come in four tiers of difficulty, designed to reduce the danger of pupils sitting tests that are too easy or too difficult for them. They will use a range of techniques, from multiple choice to extended written answers.

In English, pupils face tests on reading and writing, an extended essay and set texts. The precise style of questions on grammar and vocabulary has also not been decided. They will also do three one-hour mathematics tests covering numbers, algebra, shape and space, and handling data. There will be three one-hour science tests, and a combination of written and practical tests in technology. Class teachers will carry out their own assessments of pupils earlier in the term.

Teachers at each school will mark the papers, with GCSE groups conducting an audit to ensure standards are consistent. History and geography tests will start in 1994.

Primary schools have taken to heart ministers' demands for a concentration on the

basics of the national curriculum, according to research published yesterday.

More than half of teaching time for five-to-seven-year-olds is now devoted to the core subjects of English, mathematics and science, Warwick University researchers have found. As a result, subjects such as geography, history and religious education are being neglected.

At least a third of teachers are putting in the equivalent of 11-hour working days and the working week averages 52.4 hours.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, which commissioned the report, said that such a workload was "unreasonable and unsustainable in the long-run".



Living testament: Ester Brunstein, an Auschwitz survivor, launching the Anti Nazi League pamphlet "Holocaust denial: the new Nazi lie" in London yesterday

Rape case doctor admitted affairs

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE wife of Dr Thomas Courtney, the Harley Street gynaecologist accused of rape and indecent assault, knew he had sex with other women during their marriage, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday.

Dr Courtney's wife, an ophthalmologist, met him when they were students in Ireland. She said they had lived together before marrying.

She was giving evidence for the defence on the seventh day of her husband's trial. Dr Courtney, 46, from Cricke-

wood, north London, has denied raping two women and indecently assaulting two others at his surgery.

The prosecution alleges the two indecent assaults, involving the use of sex gadgets, occurred when he was inter-

viewing women for jobs. Richard Horwell, for the prosecution, asked Dr Courtney whether her husband had told her that when he interviewed people he would examine them and take his own clothes off.

She said Courtney had told her this. He had said he was going through the procedure and routine of his clinic.

She said her husband had told her he was going through the use of the equipment with the second potential employee — "and in the course they got carried away and had oral sex". She had been annoyed and told him it was foolish.

Anthony Arledge QC, for the defence, invited the jury to take part in a wine tasting in court at the end of the evidence. After the cork was pulled with a loud pop, an usher carried 12 plastic glasses containing Gerwurztraminer Alsace wine to the eight men and four women jurors.

The prosecution alleges that Courtney gave spiked wine to Miss B and then raped her. She said it had an unusual taste. The defence maintains that the type of wine has a distinct, spicy taste. The trial continues.

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Spy's family buried in Cumbria

By RONALD FAUX

THE final act in the mysterious life of Ian Spiro took place yesterday when his ashes were buried in a Cumbrian churchyard with the bodies of his wife and three children. The funeral at St Catherine's Church near Boot, where Gail Spiro grew up and the family once had a home, could not have been more removed from the violence and intrigue which has surrounded the family's deaths.

The spy's second wife Gail, 41, and their children Sara, 16, Adam, 14, and Deana, 7, were found murdered at their home in Rancho Santa Fe, California, three weeks ago. Three days later the body of Ian Spiro was found in his car in the desert a hundred miles away. The mystery behind their deaths is the subject of an international investigation, with reports that Mr Spiro had worked for western intelligence and had become caught up in the violent web of Middle Eastern politics.

At the simple burial service, a brief statement from the family's close relatives said they knew nothing of Ian Spiro's business dealings and were not involved in them in any way. They considered the funeral to be a private family matter, when they could mourn the deaths of five people, among them three beautiful children.

Sex bias case goes to Europe

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE European Court of Justice is to rule on whether an employer is guilty of sex discrimination if he dismisses a female worker who becomes pregnant shortly after being hired to cover for a colleague taking maternity leave.

Five law lords yesterday adjourned their judgment while they referred to Europe an appeal by Carole Nardin, of West Drayton, west London. Mrs Nardin was taken on by EMO Air Cargo (UK) as an import operations clerk in June 1987, replacing another clerk, Valerie Stewart, who was having a baby. She was dismissed two weeks into a six-month training period, after she suspected she was pregnant.

Yesterday Lord Keith of Kinkel, the senior law lord, said there could be no doubt that, in general, to dismiss a woman because she was pregnant was unlawful direct discrimination. However, in Mrs Nardin's case, it was expected non-availability during the period when she was needed to cover for Mrs Stewart "which was the critical factor". Lord Keith of Kinkel said it was necessary to take into account recent decisions of the European court concerning the interpretation of a directive on sex discrimination.

مكتبات الأصيل

Blueprint for survival promises to axe formula programmes and to emphasise 'pioneering output'

BBC pledges to plough its own furrow

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

■ The BBC's response to the government's green paper is to offer innovative programmes and increased accountability

THE BBC will no longer broadcast "imitative or formulaic" programmes provided by commercial television or radio, John Birt, its incoming director-general, said as he unveiled its blueprint for survival yesterday. He vowed that the corporation would challenge audiences with pioneering output that reflected the diversity of British culture.

Two days after the government pledged that the BBC would continue to be funded by the licence fee, Mr Birt said that the corporation did not intend to withdraw voluntarily from any of its services except sub-standard programmes bought from the United States and Australia.

Speaking publicly for the first time since being named 16 months ago as Sir Michael Checkland's successor, Mr Birt refused to name any

existing programmes that did not fit the new strategy, although some such as the Australian soap *Neighbours* clearly fall foul of the proviso banning acquired material.

Predicting that the BBC's share of the total audience will have dropped by 10 per cent to one-third of the population by the year 2000 with the proliferation of cable and satellite channels, Mr Birt said that the watchwords had to be distinctiveness and quality to justify the licence fee. "Otherwise the licence-payer will see no reason to pay anymore."

The corporation would be neither a cultural ghetto offering programmes only for elites and minorities, nor would it be drawn into battle for ratings with an ever-expanding number of commercial stations. "Rather it will be a broad-based BBC offering



Three wise men: John Birt, left, Marmaduke Hussey, centre, and Sir Michael Checkland launching the BBC's policy document yesterday

something stimulating and satisfying for everyone, something special for every individual licence-payer," Mr Birt said.

The document, *Extending Choice*, also signals a shake-up of BBC Radio, promising more speech content on Radios 1 and 2 in an effort to differ-

entiate BBC services from the commercial sector. Top 40 hits on Radio 1 will be abolished to make way for more social action, youth, humour and drama programming, as well as live music and new work. The BBC pledges to make Radios 3 and 4 accessible to a wider range of listeners.

Launching the document with Sir Michael and Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, Mr Birt said that the corporation would become more open and accountable to its audience. It will publish its programme strategy and goals every year and review its performance annually. "We

will also offer effective remedies for complaint," Mr Birt said.

In line with recommendations contained in Tuesday's green paper, the BBC will institute and publicise a new complaints procedure telling viewers and listeners how to complain and clarifying how the BBC will provide redress. It also pledged to separate the roles of management and governance to ensure that the corporation can act as "trustees of the public interest" without the conflict of interest caused by participating in day-to-day management decisions.

The corporation will also be more responsive to audience demands, scheduling a series of nationwide public meetings in the coming months. People will also be able to pay the licence fee monthly. The BBC aims to restore its

pre-eminence in drama and to re-establish itself as the "principal innovator and pioneer in comedy and light entertainment" with new formats, more sitcoms and 50-minute comedy-dramas.

It promises "a unique range of programmes for young people", an emphasis on live music coverage and the commissioning of new artistic work. "Educative" output will be extended. The BBC also promises to be the "guarantor of the national debate" with improved and extended news and current affairs coverage in peaktime.

Mr Hussey said that three things would be vital: efficiency, accountability and "a robust spirit of independence from political pressure and commercial interests".

Modern Times, page 15

Birt steps into the spotlight

JOHN Birt, 46, 16 months waiting in the wings, took centre stage at the BBC yesterday, a month before Sir Michael Checkland officially steps down as director-general. (Melinda Wittstock writes)

Reiterating Lord Reith's old ethos that the corporation must entertain, inform and educate with distinctive and pioneering programmes, Mr Birt unveiled the BBC's vision of its future as Sir Michael, sitting on the platform between his successor and Marmaduke Hussey, the chairman, looked on. Sir Michael said: "My role over the last year has been to put the BBC in a position where it could lead the debate for charter renewal by setting out an agreed and clear programming role for a single, coherent BBC committed to efficiency and accountability. In short, a BBC committed to quality and distinction, adaptation and change."

"It is now right for the incoming director-general, John Birt, to take over and win the arguments for the BBC in the coming months," Sir Michael said.

Both men insisted that they shared the same vision about the BBC's future despite continued speculation that yesterday's 88-page document meant different things in the two men.

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Coroner backs brothels

A CORONER called for legalised brothels yesterday at an inquest into the death of a teenage prostitute found strangled to death.

James Hipwell, the Norwich coroner, made his appeal at a hearing into the death of Natalie Pearson, 16, whose body was found in a lovers' lane at Ringland, near Norwich, last Friday. He said: "It seems to me that young women, whatever their mode of life, are entitled to be protected. If this young girl was feeding her drug addiction with the proceeds of prostitution, it simply lends force to the lobby which seeks to provide legalised brothels which can be properly and medically supervised."

The inquest heard that the girl, who lived with her boyfriend in Norwich, was found by a passing lorry driver. Her partially-clothed body was lying 10 yards from the road. Mr Hipwell said the cause of death was asphyxia due to manual strangulation. He said she may have been killed with one hand.

The hearing was adjourned for further police investigations.

Spencer best man 'wept to police'

THE BEST man to the Princess of Wales's brother wept after reporting a £2 million armed jewellery raid to police, a jury was told yesterday.

Anne Donellan, a New York police officer, said that Darius Guppy, a jewel merchant, west London, and Mr Marsh, also 28, of Southwark, southeast London, staged the raid in New York in March 1990 as part of a £1.8 million insurance swindle.

Mr Guppy was best man at the wedding of Earl Spencer, the Princess of Wales's only brother.

The two deny conspiring to defraud Lloyd's of London and plotting to steal and commit false accounting.

Miss Donellan, 31, told Mr James Curtis, for the prosecution, that Mr Marsh said the robbers forced their way into the room after posing as room service. One pointed a gun at them and demanded the key to the safe. They were ordered into the bathroom, made to lie on the floor and tied around the hands and feet.

After the raiders left, Mr Guppy said he knocked a phone off the hook and dialled hotel security with his nose. Miss Donellan said.

The case continues today.



Guppy: accused of insurance swindle

Historians may see atom bomb and secret service papers

By ANDREW LYCETT

THE end of the Cold war and a spirit of glasnost in Whitehall have inspired British historians to press for the release of more documents under the government's 30-year rule.

Today the minister responsible for the civil service, William Waldegrave, will receive a document outlining what they want to see.

At the moment historians are restricted by an inconsistent interpretation of the 30-year rule, which was reduced from 50 years in 1967. Many categories of historical documents are held back for up to 100 years and sometimes longer. There is a blanket ban on nuclear issues, intelligence and civil defence.

During the summer Mr Waldegrave called on "serious historians" to write to him outlining "blocks of papers that could be of help to them that we could consider releasing". The London-based Institute of Contemporary British History asked about fifty historians to draw up a list.

Among historians consulted by the institute were Dr Christopher Andrew, the intelligence expert from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Professor M. R. D. Foot, chronicler of the Special Operations Executive, and Professor Margaret Gowing, the official historian of the British atomic energy programme.

Working on the principle that simpler things will be easier to obtain, they asked to see the internal histories of clandestine departments including the Special Operations Executive, the Political Warfare Executive and the Information Research Department.

Professor Nicholas Kurti, an Oxford physicist, made a special request for the original German transcripts of the Farm Hall papers—the conversations of six German nuclear scientists who were interned near Cambridge at the end of the second world war. Other requested documents included pre-war production censuses and raw Ultra intelligence obtained

from wartime Enigma decrypts.

Dr Andrew asked for intelligence material more than 30 years old to be released, provided it did not compromise current intelligence sources and methods and did not breach obligations of confidentiality to agents.

The institute's conference was attended by government officials who handle historical documents including Sarah Tyacke, keeper of the Public Record Office. They said sensitive documents requiring time for processing before they could be released and that this would cost more money.

Dr Peter Hennessy, a professor of contemporary history at London University who chaired the symposium, said they were not pressing for a reduction in the 30-year rule but would like to see it implemented more effectively and comprehensively. They did not see themselves as part of the campaign for freedom of information. "This doesn't need any change in the law," he said.

EC invest
airline
regula

England is
poised to
beat Russia



Extended sell-by date: the Hoover Building, once a temple of high-tech consumerism, will re-open on Saturday as testament to the principal pursuit of the modern age, shopping (Kate Alderson writes). The listed 1930s building in west London, which

produced vacuum cleaners and washing machines until Hoover left the premises in 1987, starts a new life as Tesco's most glamorous superstore. Sixty years after its doors first opened, the historic building stands in gleaming splendour on London's Western

Avenue, restored by the architects Lyons, Sleeman & Hoare, with vivid green exterior lighting. There were fears by English Heritage and local planners, when the plans were first submitted a few years ago, that the building's 1930s style would be com-

promised. But everything which gave the building its character has been retained, including the "Hoover Limited" lettering, the flower beds and carefully trimmed lawns. Originally the creation of the architects Wallis, Gilbert and Partners, the factory was

at first described by some as offensive and an atrocity. The Architectural Review despised the factory which was classical in design, without any of the classical trimmings, and many followers of the Modern Movement believed it represented the despicable nature of

1930s architecture. But the Hoover style is now fashionable and a landmark for many Londoners. Shoppers will be able to ponder on their historic heritage as they wander past the vegetables and canned goods with their trolleys.

EC investigates free airline tickets for regular customers

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission is to investigate frequent-flyer promotions offered by a growing number of airlines because of fears that they may distort competition and, in some cases, fall foul of tax laws.

Some smaller airlines believe the offers, which are designed to maintain passenger loyalty by providing free flights after a certain number have been paid for, will benefit only large airlines and could help push smaller ones out of business. Even the big carriers, which last year lost £1 billion, are worried that their profits could be hit as more passengers claim free tickets.

British Airways last week provided its 500,000th free ticket to collectors of Air Miles and more than a million passengers using Europe's big scheduled airlines are expected to fly on free tickets in the next year.

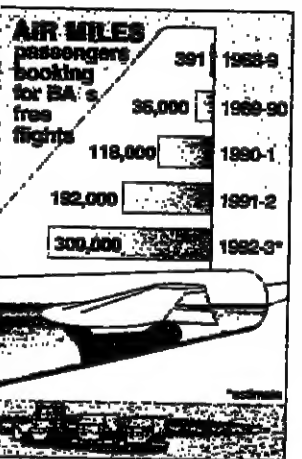
European tax experts believe some schemes may abuse tax laws by providing benefits directly to employees rather than to companies. A spokesman for the EC competition directorate said: "We have asked the airlines to provide us with full details of their frequent-flyer programmes and are watching the situation closely before launching a full study early next year."

Frequent-flyer loyalty schemes began in the United States, where so many passengers took up the offers that many aircraft were flying with at least half the passengers travelling free. The schemes were thought to be partly to

Thousands of passengers who fly for nothing may be grounded by an investigation into the legality of the marketing ploy

blame for the collapse of Pan Am and other carriers.

In 1988, when British Airways launched its Air Miles scheme, only 391 passengers qualified, but now 6,000 passengers travel free each week, with the total this year expected to exceed 300,000. BA has designed its incentive package to win passengers,



earn revenue and avoid any taxation problems by selling seats at a low price to Air Miles, which provides them as an incentive to customers of banks and retailers which join their scheme.

A BA spokesman said: "We do get a return on the seats we provide, although we cannot say how much and we carefully monitor which flights on which they are then made available."

As other airlines in Europe

race to join in, however, some of the programmes are not as carefully monitored, leading to fears that within a few years so many free seats will have been accumulated that the participating airline's income could be seriously damaged.

Few detailed studies about the long-term impact of the frequent flyer programmes have been conducted because it has so far been regarded as a commercial decision to be taken by each airline.

Marcel Pisters, deputy director general of the Association of European Airlines, said: "Everything depends on the careful calculation of the benefits of running a frequent-flyer scheme against the drop in yield which it can cause. The problem is that once someone comes up with an innovative idea to keep passengers, everyone else follows suit and then we are back to square one."

"I am concerned about the EC's investigation, however, because it looks again as if they are trying to regulate liberalisation rather than just let airlines get on with running their own affairs."

□ Hundreds of Euro-MPs and business travellers have snapped up the first air "season ticket" between London and Brussels. The Sabena Skypass, which gives unlimited travel in any one week between Heathrow and either Brussels or Antwerp for £499, was launched by the Belgian carrier last week.

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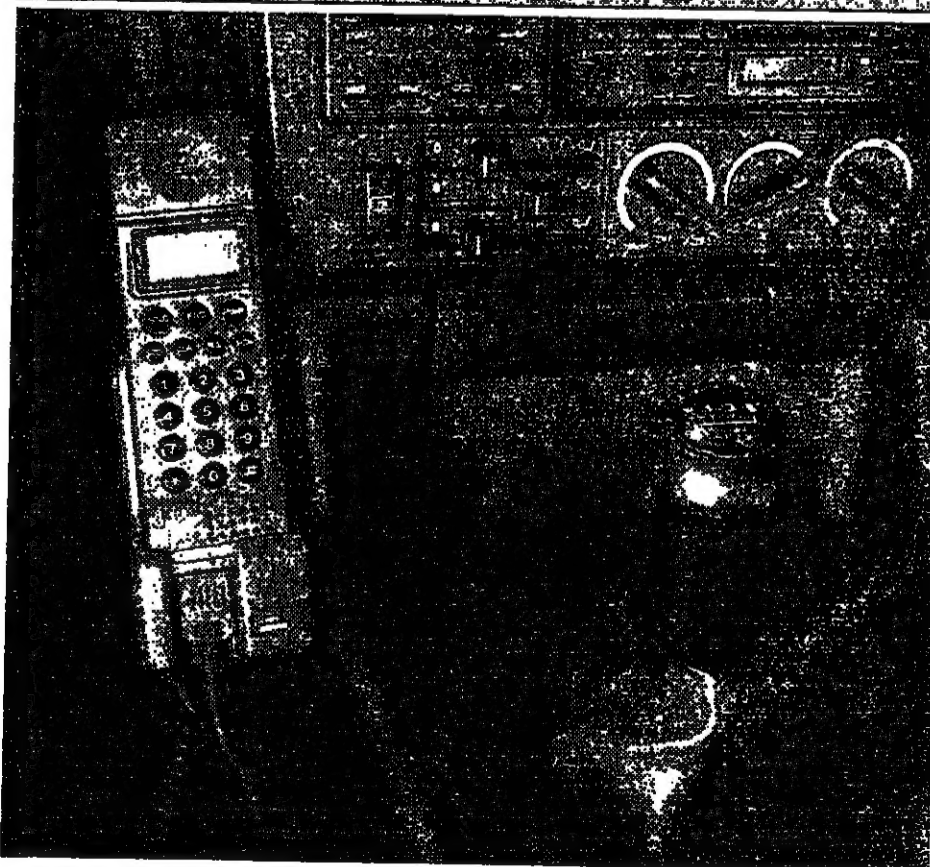
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England is poised to beat Russia

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND is on the verge of an historic chess win over Russia in the European team chess championship at Debrecen in Hungary.

In the fifth round, Nigel Short, England's top grandmaster, lost his game to Gary Kasparov, the world champion. Jon Speelman more than made up for this by defeating Evgeny Bareev, while Dr John Nunn drew with Andrei Vizmanavin. Michael Adams, the grandmaster from Truro, adjourned against Alexei Dreev with what Kasparov has called "a winning position".

If Adams wins this game, England will have inflicted a 2½ to 1½ defeat on Russia. After five rounds, Russia has 13½ points to England's 12 points. But with the game adjourned between them, England could push up to within half a point of the Russian leaders. There are three rounds left to be played.

The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



From Letters to the Editor, The Times

November 23, 2042

Sir, In the old days, one could trust union leaders to bear the best interests of the country in mind. Lord Scargill, that doughty warrior, would never in his distinguished career of public service have held the country to ransom. With his cheery Yorkshire wit and genial turn of phrase, he brought a healthy camaraderie to all sides of industry. If only the union leaders of today had half his good humour.

Yours faithfully,
LORD BEN ELTON

November 24, 2042

Sir, One need only recall the warm affection in which the great Derek Hatton was held by all sides of the House to realise how far left-wing poli-

tics have declined this century. In many ways, he could as easily have been Conservative or Labour, for he never subordinated the interests of the country to any narrow political cause. Today's fanatical left-wingers should remember that there was once a time when their forebears enjoyed the trust and respect of the whole country.

Yours etc,
SIR B. BRAGG

November 25, 2042

Sir, It is not only the politicians who have gone downhill, but the law. Where are the marvellously unifying pieces of legislation such as the poll tax, for which, if my memory serves me right, hundreds of people came out on the streets to demonstrate their support?

Yours etc,
S. FRY, OM

November 26, 2042

Sir, Why can politicians no longer bring up their children to be charming, gracious and, rarest of commodities, charismatic? Where, for instance, is the Mark Thatcher of today?

Yours faithfully,
BARONESS BURCHILL

مكتبة الأمل

Government offers MPs three choices on Sunday trading

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government yesterday took almost unprecedented precautions in its attempt to clear up the confusion over Sunday trading laws. Three options for reform of the law will be unveiled to MPs early next year in an effort to make the debate on the vexed issue as open as possible. MPs will be allowed a free vote.

The first option, favoured by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, is for total deregulation which would bring the law in England and Wales into line with that in Scotland.

Another proposal which will be put before the Commons will allow any small shop, up to a size yet to be specified, to open at any time, but would restrict large stores to a maximum of six hours opening on Sundays. The proposal, supported by the Shopping Hours Reform Council, would in-

clude a registration scheme under which shops would have to inform their local authority of their intention to trade on Sunday.

The final option, supported by the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, would impose a general ban in trading, but would exempt shops catering for "recreation, emergencies, social gatherings and travel".

Each option, to be drafted after detailed consultation with all interested groups, will be debated by MPs before a vote and the winner will undergo detailed consideration and amendment in committee.

The proposed timescale for new legislation is confused by the delayed decision of the European Court of Justice, which had been due to rule this month on whether Britain's current laws comply with

EC regulations. No bill will go before Parliament until the court judgment, which is unlikely to be announced until January at the earliest.

The government's caution in offering several options follows its embarrassment in 1986 when, despite a working majority of 100, it was defeated on its bill to reform Sunday trading. Only rarely does a bill come before MPs in such a form, although the human fertilisation and embryology bill took a similar course.

Although Mr Clarke's plans were generally welcomed by MPs as "sensible", he was given notice of a battle over protection of shop workers' rights not to work on Sunday.

He was pressed repeatedly to give an assurance that new laws would include statutory protection for all employees, present and future. Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, led the demands for protection for all future employees. "There are many inside and outside this House who believe that people should have greater freedom to shop on a Sunday provided that 'open on a Sunday' for us does not mean 'exploited on a Sunday' for those who will work in the shops that serve us."

Mr Clarke was unwilling to go further than to pledge that there would be protection for existing shop staff. "We must, however, remember that a great many people would welcome the opportunity to work on a Sunday and their freedom must be protected too."

The extension of six days' trading to seven would not be profitable for all retailers, Robert Macdonald, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said. Mr Clarke insisted that it would "stimulate retail activity and create more employment".



Suffer the children: Norma Major, in 10 Downing Street yesterday, meets a group of young victims of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster

Stores divided over the benefits of flouting law

By ROBIN YOUNG

SUPERMARKET chains, garden centres, DIY shops and branches of chains such as Boots, W H Smith and Argos have persisted in opening on Sundays since a European Court preliminary ruling in June which was hailed as a victory by the anti-Sunday trading lobby. The ruling, which was in favour of upholding member states' rights to make their own laws about Sunday trading, brought no fresh observation of Britain's anomaly-ridden Shops Act.

Firms still holding out against Sunday opening include Marks & Spencer, the John Lewis Partnership (and its Waitrose supermarkets),

the William Morrison supermarket group based in Bradford, and some discount traders including Shoprite, which claim that the extra costs of Sunday opening can add a tenth to retailers' costs without showing any significant increase in turnover.

Every Sunday more than a million customers use stores belonging to the Sainsbury's group, and about 7 per cent of the weekly takings from stores which open seven days a week come in on Sundays. Sainsbury's estimates that about one-third of the Sunday takings are extra money which would not have been spent on other days of the week.

Breeze of change brings a chill to the Lords

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

There was a sharp intake of breath from peers when they learnt of Lord Diamond's modest attempt to eradicate sex discrimination from their ranks.

Oddly, their reaction was not so much one of deeply ingrained male chauvinism, but the knowledge that once they open up one aspect of the peerages system to scrutiny, they don't know where it will end.

The hereditary peerages bill, introduced by the former Labour Treasury minister and debated last night, is flawed. Instead of merely requiring the Queen to change all letters patent so that the eldest child inherits the titles, irrespective of sex,

it gives peers the option. A surer recipe for family feud is harder to imagine.

To many outside the upper House, it is astonishing that the accident-of-birth principle has survived intact into the late 20th century. Passing titles down predominantly through the male line dates back to Richard II. In Scotland this was sometimes changed for the purely technical reason that male heirs had an unfortunate habit of being killed off, endangering the future of the estates.

In 1816, the Redesdale committee agonised over the female inheritance problem, but the peers could not bring themselves to change it. The last real challenge came in

1922 when a brave woman called Lady Rhonda unsuccessfully cited the 1919 Anti-discrimination Act to justify her claim. The most decisive change came with the introduction of life peers in 1958, followed five years later by legislation for the handful of women hereditary peers, mostly with old Scottish titles, to take their seats.

Many male hereditary peers predicted at the time that such a radical move was the beginning of the end. More recently the issue has been debated from time to time, sending shivers down the spines of the House of Lords authorities.

One argument used, ironi-

cally, against change is the hard work put in by women given life peerages, at present totalling 60, and the small group of 17 hereditary women peers. Together with the lack of women MPs, their participation has helped to mask the blatant imbalance. The latest figures show that 45 per cent of all female peers attend at least two-thirds of the sittings compared to only 18 per cent of male peers.

Another argument used in favour of hereditary peers is that they slightly reduce the average age of the upper House. In reality, the figures show that the effect is marginal. For women peers there is only a two-year age gap between life and hereditary.

PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

THE main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Social security bill, second reading.

Tuesday and Wednesday: European Communities (amendment) bill, progress on committee stage.

Thursday: Judicial pensions and retirement bill, second reading.

Friday: Debate on private member's motion on the United Nations.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday and Tuesday: British Coal and British Rail (transfer proposals) bill, committee stage.

Wednesday: Debate on the Tomlinson report on hospital provision in London.

Thursday: Criminal justice bill, report.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Peers seek bill delay

The Opposition in the Lords is seeking to delay the bill paving the way for the privatisation of BR and British Coal. The committee stage is set down for next Monday and Tuesday, but the new Opposition leader, Lord Richard, has tabled an amendment stating that peers should decline to consider the bill in committee until the government has received and published the results of the coal enquiry.

Curbs to go

John Major said at prime minister's questions that he hoped before long "British business would be able to warm its hands on a new bonfire of controls". He was responding to Tory demands for cuts in rules and regulations.

On holiday

The Commons will rise for the Christmas recess on December 17 and return on January 11. The Easter recess is likely to run from April 2 until April 14.

In Parliament

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on relations with the Arab world.

Coastal defences crumble

THE Commons government spending watchdog, the public accounts committee, has attacked the "complexity and potential confusion" of the financing and planning arrangements for England's coastal defences.

In a report published yesterday, the committee pointed out that the 160 different bodies involved in coastal defence works "led to a piecemeal approach and inhibited a wider strategic view". The report urged the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to conduct a review of organisation arrangements "to ensure effective and efficient delivery of coastal defence programmes".

A more integrated approach was recommended in a government green paper in 1985 but the committee said current arrangements "fall short" of those envisaged in that document.

MAFF and the Department of the Environment are also recommended to look at simplifying the financing of coastal defences, which is divided between MAFF and district councils and totals £78 million in this financial year. Central government grants will provide £48 million of the total. The report expressed concern that "a high percentage" of repair projects were carried out as emergency works and asked MAFF "to consider whether better value for money could be achieved through a more forward-looking approach."

European policy blamed for slump

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Thatcher yesterday renewed her assault on John Major's European policy, blaming the recession on his two-year adherence to the fixed currencies of the exchange-rate mechanism, warning that a single currency would make matters worse and denouncing the Maastricht treaty as a threat to democracy.

The former prime minister widened her attack by suggesting that the quest for a common European foreign policy had paralysed Britain and other countries in the face of Serbian aggression in Bosnia. In a bitter sideswipe at Britain's support for an international framework for dealing with the conflict, Lady Thatcher said that the West should have prevented the "atrocities" there.

"Alas, we tried to act on the basis of consensus and, as so often happens, consensus led to paralysis when effective leadership was needed. The contrast with the Gulf war is all too apparent, for then we had the United States willing to take the lead and the aggressor was stopped."

Lady Thatcher's speech in Frankfurt amounted to one of her most comprehensive repudiations of the general drift of the government's approach to Europe. The choice lay between a loosely linked Europe of nation states or a federalist Community run increasingly from Brussels, she said. Nationhood was to be valued because it strengthened de-



Thatcher: calling for a multi-speed EC

mocracy and the international rule of law. It took nation states to defeat the despot, she said of the war against Saddam Hussein.

In a tacit reference to French hostility to a Gatt trade agreement, she said that without global free trade benefiting the poorer former communist countries, immigrants would pour across EC borders "fueling a racist reaction". The other perils of the "fantastic nonsense" of seeking to create an inward-looking European superstate were the rise of armed dictators filling a democratic vacuum abroad, and a rift with the United States leading to the withdrawal of its troops from Europe and higher taxes.

The former prime minister alighted on the renewed turmoil in the foreign exchange markets to press her criticisms of the ERM and a single currency. "Fixed exchange rates between countries with vastly different economies just won't work. The suggestion that they could, especially in today's circumstances, has led to a deeper recession than we need to have suffered and turmoil in the markets."

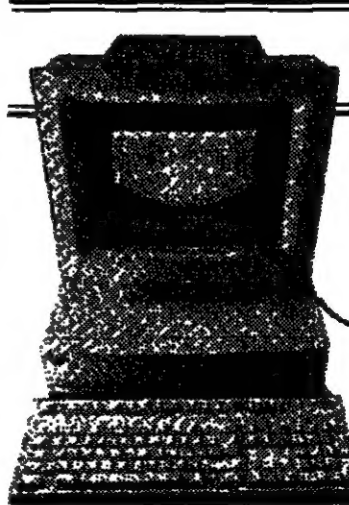
"At least under the ERM, there is an escape hatch, which would not be the case with a single currency."

Lady Thatcher was prime minister and Mr Major Chancellor when Britain joined the ERM in 1990. She defended this decision, saying the ERM she joined was not the "rigid system" it had since become. She suggested that had she stayed in power she would have pulled out of the ERM sooner than Mr Major did.

Sketching out her own vision of Europe, she said that member states should be free to move at their own speed. "We should aim at a multi-track Europe in which ad hoc groups of different states ... forge varying levels of cooperation and integration."

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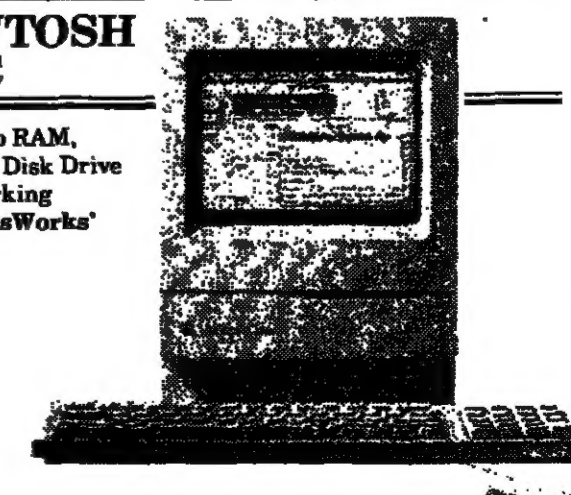
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A LAW FOR PRIVACY?

SHOULD there be a law to protect privacy? Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, will join Simon Jenkins, the former editor of The Times, and Richard Shepherd MP to debate the issue at the London Press Centre, New Street Square, London EC4 on December 2 at 6.30pm (071-704 9941). Lord Woolf will be in the chair. To obtain tickets to the forum, should there be a law to protect privacy, being held in association with Rubinstein Callingham, Polden & Gale, fill in the coupon at right.

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مكتبة الأمل

Summit success hinges on financial accord

Major's plan seeks to end budget stalemate

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

BRITAIN will table a compromise plan for the future financing of the European Community today to try to break the stalemate over a series of key issues that is threatening failure at next month's Edinburgh summit.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, are to propose a seven-year plan that will see the EC budget increase by 24 per cent to £60.5 billion in 1999. This marks a considerable curbing in the already scaled-down proposals for future financing put forward by Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, and seems certain to provoke strong opposition at today's joint meeting of foreign and finance ministers in Brussels.

There is a £4 billion gap between the British and Commission proposals. Under M Delors' plans the EC budget would have increased to £64.5 billion in 1999. The proposal has been drawn up by Britain, in its role as EC president, after face-to-face and telephone talks between John Major and his EC counterparts over recent days.

The prime minister regards a deal on financing as an essential prerequisite for a satisfactory outcome at Edinburgh on the issues of enlarging the Community and of subsidiarity, which is itself vital to the ratification of the Maastricht treaty. In a move to pacify the southern EC states, which are keenest to see a big rise in EC expenditure, Britain will today also propose that the EC's structural fund can be doubled, within tight constraints, from £6 billion to £12 billion, but British ministers clearly doubt that this will be enough to satisfy Spain, Portugal and Greece.

Mr Major and his colleagues accept that a deal on financing is needed to rescue the Edinburgh summit. Government officials pointed out last night that the conclusion of both the Maastricht and Lisbon summits had been taken place only after a deal on future Community financing had been agreed.

Under the presidency's revised plans to be unveiled today, Britain will be contributing around £600m less in 1999 than it would have done under the original Delors plan. At present the Community's budget amounts to a ceiling of 1.2 per cent of

Community gross national product, or about £47 billion in money terms.

Today Mr Lamont and Mr Hurd will propose that the ceiling be raised to 1.25 per cent of GNP by the year 1999, although they will suggest that there should be no increase at all for the first three years of the intervening period.

M Delors' original financing package suggested that the budget should be increased to £65 billion by 1997. After strong opposition from the contributor countries it was scaled down to a figure of £64 billion by 1999. Britain's concession on the structural fund is clearly needed to placate the southern countries. As Mr Hurd has acknowledged, they were unhappy at the cutting back of the original Delors proposals.

Last night, indeed, it seemed certain that the four poorer EC states — Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain — would resist the plan, described by Whitehall sources as a "tight but realistic overall settlement." Even a doubling of the structural fund would be several billion pounds short of the sum sought by the southern states.



Dancing attendance: the Pope meets Japanese dancers during an audience at the Vatican. In a speech unconnected with the visit, the Pope denounced child prostitution in southeast Asia, saying that it had become a flourishing tourist industry. "Hundreds of thousands of children have had their moral and physical dignity destroyed by prostitution," he said. (Reuters)

Brussels gibes at 'rundown' Britain

From Tom Walker in Brussels

HENNING Christophersen, the EC finance commissioner who astounded national capitals on Monday with his call to pump £50 billion into the Community's economy, has thrown himself into the firing

line again by comparing housing conditions in Britain with those in the former East Germany.

Mr Christophersen had come under pressure from Britain and Germany whose officials spent much of Tuesday pouring cold water on his spending claims. At the same time, Jacques Delors, the Commission president, was understood to be furious with his colleague for so violently throwing the EC's "dash for growth" into the spotlight.

Yesterday a contrite Mr Christophersen began a private briefing with Danish journalists by explaining that he had been misunderstood, and that the Commission was prepared to put only around £30 billion into the "kickstart" needed by the EC economy.

If that money were matched by member states and private banks, he said, then a guarantee fund run by the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg with sufficient weight to raise £8 billion on the international markets should be feasible.

Far from dimming the controversy, however, Mr Christophersen then introduced the subject of housing. "The need

for an effort in the housing sector is obvious. There are many places where the housing stock is run down, like East Germany and Britain's inner cities," he said.

Mr Christophersen also called on Germany to lower its interest rates to stimulate growth. He said relaxation of monetary controls by the Bundesbank was the key to his growth plan working.

Referring to his ideas on a guarantee fund, Mr Christophersen said member states could take long-term loans

from the fund to invest in infrastructure projects attracting jobs and new investment. He hoped the total long-term effect would be to encourage private-sector investment valued at his original headline-grabbing figure of £50 billion. The Danish commissioner wants EC growth to return to the 2.5 per cent level; Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said on Tuesday it would be nearer 1 per cent next year.

M Delors, meanwhile, has gone to ground on the growth plan altogether. Officials in his 23-strong planning unit in Brussels have been sworn to secrecy after what a former member said had been "an unfortunate incident with a journalist."

Mr Christophersen was anxious to emphasise in his discussion with the journalists that no extra demands would be made on member states to borrow, and that private money would fuel the recovery. "There is no way we can make things work without private investment taking the lead," he said.

The growth plan will be discussed at the Edinburgh summit of EC leaders in two weeks' time.



Christophersen: critical of British housing

Craxi rejects party calls to step down

From John Phillips in Rome

BETTINO Craxi, the embattled Italian Socialist leader, yesterday ignored calls at the party's national assembly for him to stand down in the wake of a damaging corruption scandal. His decision leaves the party badly divided between loyalists and renegades led by Claudio Martelli, the justice minister.

Delegates to the Socialist assembly were expected to support Signor Craxi by a majority in a vote on electoral reform that was being seen as a litmus test for his capacity to beat off the growing leadership challenge by Signor Martelli, his former protégé, who accuses him of refusing to put together a viable left-wing alternative to governments dominated by the Christian Democrat party. Signor Craxi's aides said they expected that he would have the support of 400 of the 600 delegates.

Signor Craxi wants only limited reform of the Italian proportional representation system: the rebels led by Signor Martelli want a move towards the British first-past-the-post system.

Calls for Signor Craxi to resign as party secretary have multiplied since the political bribery scandal in February in Milan when nearly 100 businessmen and politicians were

arrested. Among those implicated were Paolo Pillitteri, a former mayor of Milan, who is Signor Craxi's brother-in-law, and several more close associates. The affair is believed to have cost Signor Craxi his chance of returning as prime minister in the April general election.

Before the two-day Socialist assembly began, Signor Craxi repeatedly hinted that he would like to hand over the secretaryship to Giuliano Amato, the prime minister. But, in a speech to the assembly on Wednesday, he made no mention of leaving, saying only that there should be a full party congress next April.

The disarray within the Socialist camp bodes ill for the party in next month's weather-vane local elections in the cities, including Monza and Varese, in which the devolutionist Lombardy League is expected to make further gains.

Signor Martelli has indicated that he would seek to form a left-wing coalition with the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left if he took over the Socialist leadership. Many Socialist rank-and-file militants are disillusioned with the current four-party coalition of Socialists, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats.

Drug addicts flock over Dutch borders

From Mark Fuller in Amsterdam

THE Netherlands, a fervent supporter of a borderless Europe, is counting the cost of its already relaxed frontier controls, with growing numbers of drugs-seeking tourists flocking into its border towns.

Amsterdam remains the country's drugs Mecca, but southern towns such as Maastricht, Heerlen, Kerkrade, Venlo and Sittard have also become the target of hard-drug pushers. According to the newspaper *Het Parool*, Maastricht is worst affected with about 1,000 foreign addicts descending on the city each day.

Heerlen is invaded by about

400 German addicts daily and has been forced to adopt Amsterdam practices to cope with the problem. A "needle bus" has been parked outside the city's central station to give addicts clean hypodermic syringes, and a bus supplying methadone, a heroin substitute, will operate between Heerlen and neighbouring towns from January.

Dutch police admit that they are at a loss to find a solution. There is a plan to set up regional border patrol teams but co-operation between Germany and Holland on combining hard drugs has been marginal.

Takeshita denies using mob

Tokyo: Noboru Takeshita, a former Japanese prime minister, yesterday denied employing the mob to silence a right-wing smear campaign that threatened his successful bid for the top office five years ago.

In sworn testimony to a parliamentary committee, Mr Takeshita said it was only after December 1989 that he learned that Susumu Ishii, chairman of Inagawa-kai, Japan's second-biggest underworld clan, was trying to buy the silence of Mr Takeshita's opponents. "I do not think that crime syndicates had a role in establishing my government," he said. (APF)

HIV verdict

Portland: A man infected with HIV who was accused of trying to infect a teenage girl through having unprotected sex has been convicted of attempted murder in Oregon. Alberto Gonzalez, 28, faces up to 11 years in jail. The girl has tested negative for the virus. The deputy district attorney said the verdict "sends a very important message to people around the country about their behaviour." (AP)

Trial delayed

Berlin: The fourth session of the trial of Erich Honecker, the former East German dictator, on charges of authorising a shoot-to-kill policy for those trying to escape to the West was adjourned because he felt ill. (Reuters)

Officials strike

Madrid: More than a million civil servants staged a 24-hour nationwide strike yesterday against a proposed wage freeze. The stoppage shut down ministries and local councils was supported by more than 80 per cent of Spain's two million civil servants. (AP)

Fugitive killed

Sydney: A mob beat a fugitive murderer to death in Port Moresby, the Papua New Guinea capital, after he tried to abduct and rape a Roman Catholic nun. (Reuters)

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	£25,000+	6.50%		5.00%	
	£10,000+	6.00%		4.80%	
	£5,000+	5.50%		4.60%	
	£2,500+	5.00%		4.40%	
	£1,000+	4.50%		4.20%	
	£500+	4.00%		4.00%	
High 30 Monthly Income	£100,000+	7.50%	7.50%	5.40%	5.40%
	£50,000+	7.00%	7.00%	5.20%	5.20%
	£25,000+	6.50%	6.50%	5.00%	5.00%
	£10,000+	6.00%	6.00%	4.80%	4.80%
	£5,000+	5.50%	5.50%	4.60%	4.60%
	£2,500+	5.00%	5.00%	4.40%	4.40%
	£1,000+	4.50%	4.50%	4.20%	4.20%
	£500+	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Select, (plus Special Edition Bond, H&A, Fixed Rate Bond A, Secure Investment Bond, First Issue Trade Rate Bond, All new Closed Issues)	£50,000+	6.50%		4.70%	
	£25,000+	6.00%		4.50%	
	£10,000+	5.50%		4.30%	
	£5,000+	5.00%		4.10%	
	£2,500+	4.50%		3.90%	
	£1,000+	4.00%		3.70%	
	£500+	3.50%		3.50%	
Special Monthly Income	£100,000+	6.50%	6.50%	4.50%	4.50%
	£50,000+	6.00%	6.00%	4.30%	4.30%
	£25,000+	5.50%	5.50%	4.10%	4.10%
	£10,000+	5.00%	5.00%	3.90%	3.90%
	£5,000+	4.50%	4.50%	3.70%	3.70%
	£2,500+	4.00%	4.00%	3.50%	3.50%
	£1,000+	3.50%	3.50%	3.30%	3.30%
	£500+	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%
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	£1,000+	6.50%		5.00%	
	£500+	6.00%		4.80%	
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	£5,000+	7.00%		5.20%	
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Share Shares	£1+	1.50%		0.50%	
Special Deposits	£1+	0.50%		0.50%	
Balance Sheet (Special Investment Accounts - Third Issue)	£1+	10.00%		0.50%	
High 30 Donations Account	£100,000+	7.50%		5.40%	
	£50,000+	7.00%		5.20%	
	£25,000+	6.50%		5.00%	
	£10,000+	6.00%		4.80%	
	£5,000+	5.50%		4.60%	
	£2,500+	5.00%		4.40%	
	£1,000+	4.50%		4.20%	
	£500+	4.00%		4.00%	
Charity	£1+	4.40%		3.20%	
†† Triple Bonus (Share Plus) (Closed Issue)	£25,000+	1.50%		0.50%	
	£10,000+	1.00%		0.50%	
	£5,000+	0.50%		0.50%	
†† Overseas 3 Month Capital (International First Class Bonds) (Closed Issue)	£10,000+	5.70%		4.20%	
	£5,000+	5.20%		3.90%	
	£2,500+	4.70%		3.60%	
	£1,000+	4.20%		3.30%	
	£500+	3.70%		3.00%	
†† Overseas Prime Access	£25,000+	4.80%		3.40%	
	£10,000+	4.30%		3.10%	
	£5,000+	3.80%		2.80%	
	£2,500+	3.30%		2.50%	
	£1,000+	2.80%		2.20%	
	£500+	2.30%		1.90%	
Charity Share Shares (Closed Issue)	£1+	0.70%	0.70%	0.50%	0.50%
Charity Gold Shares (Closed Issue)	£1+	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
Charity Special 90 (and related accounts) (Closed Issue)	£25,000+	0.50%	0.50%	0.70%	0.70%
	£10,000+	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
	£5,000+	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
	£2,500+	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
	£1,000+	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
	£500+	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
Charity Income Accounts (and related accounts) (Closed Issue)	£20,000+	5.00%		4.40%	
	£10,000+	4.50%		3.90%	
	£5,000+	4.00%		3.40%	
	£2,500+	3.50%		2.90%	
	£1,000+	3.00%		2.40%	
	£500+	2.50%		1.90%	
Charity Regular Savings (Closed Issue)	£1+	1.00%		0.50%	
Charity TESSA (Closed Issue)	£1+	7.50%		5.40%	
†† Triple Bonus (Share Plus) (Closed Issue)	£25,000+	1.50%		0.50%	
	£10,000+	1.00%		0.50%	
	£5,000+	0.50%		0.50%	
†† Triple Bonus Income (Closed Issue)	£10,000+	1.00%		0.50%	
	£5,000+	0.50%		0.50%	
	£2,500+	0.50%		0.50%	
	£1,000+	0.50%		0.50%	
	£500+	0.50%		0.50%	
†† Overseas Income	£25,000+	4.80%		3.40%	
	£10,000+	4.30%		3.10%	
	£5,000+	3.80%		2.80%	
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Third World demands new markets for commodities as France wins support for emergency summit

Gatt will push for global trade treaty by Christmas

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN GENEVA

GLOBAL talks aimed at finalising the most ambitious trade liberalisation treaty ever attempted by the world's recession-struck governments were reactivated here yesterday.

Despite the continuing controversy within the European Community over the farm subsidy deal struck with America last week, representatives from more than a hundred trading nations agreed to push for an outline deal on a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) by Christmas. "If it were up to me, we could conclude by Christmas," said Tran van Thinh, the EC's ambassador. Work on the treaty, which is due to free global trade in food, services, clothing and copyright, has been held up

for two years by the wrangle over farm subsidies between America and the EC. The entire negotiation, involving 108 states, has lasted just over six years.

No sooner has the threat of a transatlantic trade war over oilseeds been lifted than the talks face another deadline at the beginning of March. The negotiating authority of the incoming American president, Bill Clinton, expires if he cannot present a deal to Congress by that date. Acknowledging that the timetable was tight, Arthur Dunkel, the secretary-general of Gatt, said that "the main point is that multilateral negotiation has moved off again." The world, he said, needed a "strong signal that trading nations are

co-operating." Mr Dunkel chaired yesterday's meeting of Gatt ambassadors which heard warnings from Third World commodity producers, represented by Brazil, that they expected new markets to be opened in the northern hemisphere with the lowering of import tariffs. Japan and South Korea also repeated frequent warnings that they will not bow to demands to open their home markets to foreign rice producers.

Mr Dunkel said that he was not worried by the storm raging inside the EC over whether the recent transatlantic settlement fitted within the Community's agreed reform of its common agricultural policy. But Gatt officials and non-EC governments are anxious about the secrecy which surrounds the results of the EC-American talks. The details settled on the hardest issues of subsidised oilseeds and cereal exports were rapidly released, but Third World governments want further details of which tariffs the Com-

munity and the United States will jointly reduce.

America and Europe do more than half of the world's trade and their decisions on "market access" on goods ranging from pharmaceuticals, timber, and textiles to bananas, coffee and cut flowers will determine the success or failure of the remaining talks. Mr Dunkel hopes to reopen his proposed treaty, first released a year ago, for only a day or two to allow the text to be brought into line with the EC-American accord and to adjust a compromise over the Asian rice trade. But many of the key decisions on lowering or preserving tariffs will be taken in the subsequent bargaining over the treaty's lengthy technical footnotes.

The scope of the proposed Gatt treaty is so broad and ambitious that a draft agreement will provoke domestic crises across the globe. A senior Gatt official predicted that the opening of the Japanese and Korean rice market, reduction of protection for the Canadian dairy farmers, and lowering of protective tariffs for US textile firms would generate crises similar to the revolt in the French countryside over the farm deal. "There are crises ready to start all over the world when these deals are finally done," he said.

Paris: France pledged last night to defend its currency against speculators and save the Community's plans for economic and monetary union. Michel Sapin, the finance minister, said that France would work in close co-operation "with our German friends" (Reuters)



Clinton: facing March congressional deadline

Paris tones down farm-war rhetoric

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS AND JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AFTER a week of French outrage and posturing over the EC-US farm accord, some calm returned to the political scene yesterday as ministers indicated that an EC veto would be a last resort and the main business body urged the government not to yield to the farmers.

Angry peasants kept up their protests against the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) in several regions, while Jean-Pierre Soisson, the agriculture minister, dismissed as nonsense an EC report that argued that the farm agreement did not go beyond reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy.

Addressing the Senate, Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, backed away from his wartime pledge of a veto on Wednesday, saying France could not take the action until all negotiation was completed. France's partners would take its position into account.

Bruno Durieux, a foreign trade minister, said the moment of decision would come

only after all 108 parties to the Gatt talks had reached an agreement. The timetable was accelerated yesterday, however, when the negotiators told Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt chief, that they wanted an outline deal on freeing global trade by Christmas.

Community officials expect France to manoeuvre in coming weeks to win concessions from its partners on ways to soften the impact on its agriculture. In Rome, the Italian agriculture minister reiterated his support for French disdain of the Gatt agreement. "I think the French position facilitates a revision of the questions raised by the Gatt," Gianni Fontana said. "That is what I will propose."

German farmers plan a mass rally in Bonn on December 8 to protest against the agreement on farm products between the EC and the United States, the German farmers' federation said yesterday. German farmers have urged Bonn to veto the accord. (Reuters)



Finger on the pulse: Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt secretary-general, giving his prescription in Geneva yesterday for a trade accord to be reached by Christmas

New deal deadline appears doomed

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

The latest Christmas deadline for a world trade deal will probably suffer a similarly ignominious fate as all previous attempts to put a guillotine to the Uruguay round of trade talks, which has dragged on since 1986.

Despite the French threat of a veto, negotiators are now marginally more optimistic that a broad agreement is within reach but perhaps not until well into next year.

The biggest difficulty for the European and American negotiators is how to resolve the problem of two conflicting "real" deadlines: one is March 1, which US Congress has set for a "last-track" negotiating authority. The other is effectively the French parliamentary elections later that month. After the veto threat on Wednesday, one can take almost for granted that the French government would not rubber-stamp any deal before the election.

One suggestion is that a formal vote would be postponed until after the completion of the total package, including numerous technical bilateral agreements, whose negotiation could still present a significant stumbling block. This is not expected to happen until the middle of next year.

While the commission is adamant that the Community-US farm deal, including the controversial agreement of a 21 per cent cut in subsidised EC farm exports, is the best that Europe could get, and there is no chance of a renegotiation, as France demands, it is anxious not to put Paris in a position where it might have to exercise the veto.

There were some positive signs from Paris yesterday. Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, said the EC report was unacceptable but "much more reasonable than the initial statements we heard". This is seen as preparing the way for a U-turn without immediately abandoning the headline position.

Belgium and Spain hint at opposition to agreement

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE European Community lurched towards crisis over its farm subsidies deal with America yesterday, with several governments on the point of throwing in their lot with France.

Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian prime minister, led the way, joining

France's call for an emergency EC summit of foreign and farm ministers to look at the disputed Washington agreement. Spain also looked likely to lend its support to Paris. Italy, Ireland, Portugal and Greece have also begun to waver.

Two days ago it seemed France would have to use its veto to get its way, but now it appears to have sufficient

support from Belgium and Spain, to throw out the Washington deal by normal voting procedure.

The diplomatic manoeuvring came as the European Commission released its 14-page conclusion that the Washington deal can be achieved within the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Spain is uncertain over whether to give outright support to France, in

opposing the signing of the Gatt deal. A spokesman for the Spanish foreign ministry said Spain "understands France's worries about Gatt" but refused to go so far as to say that Spain supported France's opposition to the deal. He admitted that Javier Solana, the Spanish foreign minister, will be seeking a more "global" formula at today's EC meeting.



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Russian leader pursues double strategy of appeasement and resistance on eve of Congress

Centrists increase pressure on Yeltsin

By ANNE McELVOY

One radical cabinet member gone, the post of state secretary abolished and the foreign minister fighting to escape becoming the third sacrificial lamb: the events of the past two days leave little doubt that Civic Union, Russia's centre-right opposition, is leading the government firmly by the nose in the run-up to next week's Congress of People's Deputies.

The fate of Mikhail Poltoranin and Gennadi Burbulis and the uncertainty surrounding the future of Andrei Kozyrev are proof of the Union's mounting influence since President Yeltsin's reform programme ran into a crisis of confidence in the summer. The conservative umbrella group, clustered around the military-industrial complex, wanted heads to roll as a symbolic recognition by the government that it must change course.

Mr Yeltsin chose to duck confrontation and comply. He needs Civic Union's support to ensure that his government survives the Congress at all and is prepared to dispense with colleagues to get it.

Led by Arkady Vol'sky, head of the industrialists' union, and with Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president, providing moral support, the Union is the only opposition group to boast a coherent alternative strategy for Russian reform. Mr Vol'sky is one of the great survivors who has effortlessly passed from the Soviet to the Russian cause. Mikhail Gorbachev, in one of those ironies in which Kreninology is rich, offered him Mr Yeltsin's job as Moscow party chief when Mr Yeltsin was accused of ill-discipline and stripped of this post in 1987. He declined it, apparently out of loyalty to Mr Yeltsin, and was sent as governor to Nagorno-Karabakh.

He is a well-balanced if calculating individual who boasts that essential biographical detail among post-communist political figures, a clean record in the coup days. He appears to have no personal animus against Mr Yeltsin, but is motivated by a strong conviction that Russia should be a strong state, sustained by the heavy industry and military forged by Stalin.

He wants to boost production by feeding ailing industries state subsidies and match price rises with pay increases. His frequently repeated motto is that the transition to the market is too important to be left to the market to regulate. Such sentiments betray his attachment to centralism.

Civic Union would throw overboard the shock therapy package recommended by the West and supported by the International Monetary Fund and pursue a more gradual transformation to the free market, protecting the vast and inefficient former Soviet enterprises from the collapse inevitable under the current policy of extensive privatisation. Its desire to stimulate military exports could jeopardise the excellent relations built up with the West over the past year.

Its members bemoan Russia's fall from superpower to beggar nation and have promised to make it more self-reliant and confident. Beneath its economic pragmatism and cynical political manoeuvring lurks a message of isolationist revisionism waiting to be heard and there are many in Russia with ears to hear it.

This is the third in a series of articles previewing Tuesday's meeting of People's Deputies

Second Moscow reformer dismissed

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday dispensed with a second leading member of his reform team in two days, abolishing the post of state secretary held by Gennadi Burbulis, his close aide, in an attempt to use carefully calculated concessions to buy off opposition to his government before next week's Congress of People's Deputies.

Mr Burbulis will be moved sideways to head a group of advisers to the Russian president. The decision to dissolve the post of state secretary comes a day after the resignation of Mikhail Poltoranin, the information minister, who was also a close friend.

By attacking the post rather than sacking its holder, Mr Yeltsin hopes to satisfy the substance of demands by Civic Union, his main critic, for sweeping personnel changes while keeping his reforms on course.

The Russian leadership is

pursuing a double strategy of appeasement and resistance in the hope of wringing a mandate for strong government from the congress, made up of mainly conservative deputies. Yegor Gaidar, the prime minister and architect of Mr Yeltsin's radical reform programme, announced anti-crisis measures to stabilise the failing Russian economy. In doing so he told parliament that he would not bow to Civic Union's demands for the restoration of state controls in the transition to a market economy.

In a robust defence of the reform programme, Mr Gaidar said he was not willing to sanction a "limitless money supply". He was referring to demands from the industry lobby to grant generous state credits before the end of the year to save former Soviet enterprises from bankruptcy and to ward off increases in unemployment. He also announced that there would be no freeze on prices and salaries, and rejected conservative demands for intervention to shore up the rouble.

Arkadi Vol'sky, the main Civic Union leader, accused the government of reneging on a promise to include his conservative grouping's proposals in the document. And several headline deputies responded to the package with demands for a no-confidence vote in Mr Gaidar.

The union had demanded the resignations of Mr Poltoranin and Mr Burbulis and has also targeted Andrei Kozyrev, the foreign minister. His fate hung in the balance after reports yesterday that his resignation was imminent. It is believed, however, that Mr Yeltsin may try to retain him until the congress convenes, keeping open the option of sacrificing him during the session to appease the hardliners. The resignation of

Pyotr Aven, the foreign trade minister, is also expected.

Mr Kozyrev is seen by conservatives as having sold out Russia's interests to the West. He said yesterday that he had received assurances from Mr Yeltsin that he was safe, a guarantee which often means little in Russian politics.

The reshuffle preceding congress demonstrates Mr Yeltsin's readiness to compromise with the opposition, even at the price of using colleagues as bargaining counters. The rightness of this policy will be judged by its outcome and it is far from certain that Civic Union will be satisfied with the concessions Mr Yeltsin is offering.

The Russian leader has placed strategy above sentiment this week, considering that the advantage to be gained from unseating Mr Poltoranin and Mr Burbulis was greater than the pull of

friendship. The two men misinterpreted the defence of the White House for Mr Yeltsin during the coup attempt against Mikhail Gorbachev and were regular partners on his alleged drinking sprees, a role which earned the threesome the tag of the "vodka troika".

London: A delegation of left-of-centre Russian members of parliament on a visit to London has criticised Western misunderstanding of political opposition to Mr Yeltsin and his reform programme (Jonathan Prynn writes).

Aleksandr Sokolov, of the Socialist Party of Working People, said it was "totally false" for the West to assume that "people who oppose the reforms are against democracy", adding: "It is a widely spread mistake that Russian democracy is personified in certain people and names. It is a big mistake. Democracy is a general notion."



In cold blood: Boris Herak, 21, a Serb soldier accused of murdering 29 Muslims over the past several months, waits in an interrogation room in a Bosnian army jail in Sarajevo. The UN Human Rights Commission meets next week to discuss documenting atrocities in Bosnia

Serb widows stop UN aid reaching Muslim enclave

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BRATUNAC

THE hills of Srebrenica were silhouetted against the dying sun last night. They are clearly visible from the cemetery of Bratunac. Black-clad Bosnian Serb women knelt in the mud before the fresh graves of their sons and husbands and candles flared on the freshly dug earth piled over Zoran Blagojevic, buried half an hour before.

Eighty thousand people are believed to be under siege in the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica but no one is sure

as it is now the last known place in Bosnia not to have received a single crust of bread from the UN or any other aid agency. Twice already the women of Bratunac have blocked the roads to prevent armed convoys getting through. "Never, never, never," yelled the women yesterday. "You will never feed our enemies."

On the Serbian bank of the river Drina three UN armoured personnel carriers and 20 trucks with humani-

tarian assistance bound for Srebrenica stood idle in a market place. But the people of Serb-held Bratunac were waiting. A crowd of 500 was ready for visitors. "Don't threat with power" read one placard in English. "We are the power!" In the distance the crackle of machinegun fire broke the eerie twilight already alive with the plaintive mourning chants of the women in black.

The people and military commanders of Bratunac now preventing aid from reaching Srebrenica have plunged relations between the UN and the Bosnian Serb authorities into crisis. Aid to Serb-held parts of Bosnia has been suspended and, last night, General Philippe Morillon, the UN commander, and General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, were holding talks.

Elsewhere, the UN had good news. A relief convoy carrying 80 tonnes of aid reached the stranded Muslim town of Gorazde after being delayed by a mine explosion. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said

Kalashnikov army unfit for the fight

FROM MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN SPLIT, CENTRAL BOSNIA

THE local Croatian newspapers in central and southern Bosnia-Herzegovina call them "the heroic defenders". They are the soldiers in their dark green and brown combat fatigues defending the line against the advancing Serbs.

In reality, there is little heroism, scant evidence of serious defending, and certainly no deadly weapons with which to fight the Serbs when they come down the road. When the young Croatian and Muslim fighters come off duty to go home to sleep, they hand over their Kalashnikovs to the next shift. There are not enough to go around.

The Croats and their Muslim allies are facing Serbs who have superior weapons. As a result they have developed a siege mentality which affects their attitude towards military operations. This is most noticeable in the Travnik area, where the fear of a Serbian advance dominates the town. A general mobilisation has been ordered for men aged 17 to 45 to provide them with training in the old army barracks. As

the older men become weary with the long hours and the strain of waiting for the Serbs, the younger generation is being pushed forward. But they have neither the heart nor the experience to cope with suddenly having to defend their territory and their families with a pitiful supply of weapons.

This is not a war for the infantry. The defenders are not fighting on street corners in arm-to-arm combat with the Serbs. The young men being pushed forward into the frontline know nothing of military tactics. They are taught to fire their Kalashnikovs, but their training does not include mounting counter-offensives or launching night raids on Serbian artillery positions. It is not that sort of war.

Mojkovac Yugoslav workers in this Montenegro town are working round the clock to repair a makeshift dam that is threatening to unleash seven million tonnes of toxic waste into Balkan rivers. Locals call it "Montenegro's Chernobyl". (Reuters)

Stricter embargo urged

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday called the ambassadors of Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria to the Foreign Office to ask them to urge their governments to tighten United Nations sanctions against Serbia.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, discussed with Sergio Celac of Romania, Tibor Antalpet of Hungary and Ivan Stancic of Bulgaria, ways that the latest United Nations Security Council reso-

lution could be implemented. Britain believes too many items are crossing into Serbia, so weakening sanctions.

British officials said the meeting with the ambassadors was not intended as a reproach or reprimand. Whitehall recognises that the three governments, especially Hungary, have tried to enforce the embargo.

Parliament, page 9

Man held over racist attacks in Germany

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN

THE German federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe announced yesterday that police have detained a right-wing extremist who they believe may be connected to the firebombing in Mölln in which three Turks were killed.

The victims were a 51-year-old grandmother and two young girls. The authorities launched a huge hunt for the killers and offered several rewards.

The police arrested the 25-year-old man on suspicion of attempted murder and attempted arson in at least three other firebombings in Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Investigators are also seeking ten others

who, with the arrested man, allegedly make up a right-wing terrorist group. They can expect life sentences if they are found to have been involved in the Mölln killings.

Rudolf Seiters, the German interior minister, told the *Berliner Morgenpost* yesterday that his office expects to announce a ban on two right-wing groups, the Deutsche Alternative and the National Front, this week. The two groups claim a total of 500 members.

A majority of Germans support the introduction of severe measures to curb the far right even if it means the temporary loss of some liberties. A poll by the Wicket Institute found 77



Seiters: likely to ban two right-wing groups

percent of Germans ready to accept greater police powers, including the right to tap phones. Citizens' rights activists have said such moves could ultimately turn Germany into a police state

and are a dangerous echo of tactics used by the Nazi party 60 years ago.

A survey by the German INFAS institute found that 76 per cent (up from 61 per cent a year ago) of Germans agreed with the statement: "In Germany there are far too many foreigners, guest-workers and asylum seekers. They are taking jobs away from Germans, infiltrating German culture and staying here. Therefore we must demand — foreigners out."

In one survey 37 per cent of Germans said they should "start to defend themselves" against the refugee influx. The surveys come as several Jewish and Turkish leaders have hinted that their communities may soon need to arm themselves against neo-Nazis.

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De Klerk sets 1994 target for multiracial election

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa was aiming to be ready to stage multiracial elections by April 1994 with an interim government of national unity in place before the end of that year, President de Klerk said last night.

The government considers it in the best interests of the country that a fully representative government of national unity should be in place no later than the first half of 1994," he said.

The president added that such a government would function under a transitional constitution which would, among other things, provide for an elected parliament and executive. The first important hurdle, he said, was the completion of bilateral talks with as many parties as possible.

UK shifts policy on Timor

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WITH East Timor under increased repression following the arrest of Xanana Gusman, leader of the Fretilin independence movement, Britain has signalled it believes that the question of Timorese participation in talks on the territory should be considered.

In a letter to a Tory MP, Alistair Goodlad, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, indicates that Britain now fully supports the Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, in getting all parties in the conflict to the negotiating table. In the past the UN has been content to leave the talks in the hands of the Portuguese and the Indonesians.

Senior Xanana would represent Fretilin but the Indonesians are seeking to discredit him. He has been branded a "street criminal" by Benny Murdani, the defence minister. Australia, Portugal and human rights groups have expressed concern over the safety of Senior Xanana, whose whereabouts are unknown since his arrest last Friday.

and between as many parties as possible, which would result in the establishment of a multiparty negotiating forum. He foresaw an end to bilateral talks by the end of next February and the convening of a negotiating forum by the end of March.

Multilateral agreements on a transitional constitution, including constitution-making procedures, constitutional principles and regional government, transitional executive councils and an election commission should be completed before the end of May 1993. Legislation to establish transitional executive councils and an electoral commission would be passed by the parliament and instituted by June.

Mr de Klerk said a transitional constitution would be adopted before the end of September and election rules and regulations promulgated before the end of October.

He underlined the need to ensure free political participation, contain violence, organise party campaigns and prepare voter information before elections to be held not later than March or April 1994.

The timetable, Mr de Klerk said, was flexible, and many parts of it could be advanced if progress was made. The schedule that the president laid down differs little from that which he disclosed to

John Major and John Smith, the Labour leader, during his visit to London two weeks ago, but it may come as a disappointment to the black liberation movements that have anticipated a faster transition.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary general of the African National Congress, said in Durban this week that he would expect to see a constituent assembly elected within twelve months. Dikgang Moseneke, of the Pan Africanist Congress, spoke of a similar time scale to the foreign press on Wednesday.

Western diplomats in Pretoria however believe that the programme laid down by Mr de Klerk is much more realistic. The president yesterday also welcomed the adoption by the ANC national executive of their new strategy for negotiations, which envisages the possibility of power sharing even after second elections under a new constitutional dispensation.

He said that there seemed to be a growing convergence of opinion that power sharing would be needed after the enactment of a final new constitution. "The whole trend of thought and the drift of the debate is promising, and I welcome that," he said.

In a background paper issued as he spoke, Mr de Klerk explained his view that power sharing meant that the party gaining 51 per cent of the vote

should not get 100 per cent of power at all levels of government. The paper said that "for elections to be free and fair it is inconceivable that political parties should have private armies", a clear reference to the ANC and its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

"Our people and our leaders must come out openly in full support of political tolerance and reconciliation if peace is to be attained," the paper adds.

In another development Nelson Mandela, president of the ANC, made it clear yesterday that he had not dropped preconditions for peace talks with Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, chief minister of KwaZulu and president of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

But Chief Buthe is unlikely to accept that his followers should agree not to carry their traditional weapons or that the migrant hostels should be fenced, as Mr Mandela demands, before they meet. "The violence will not end just because they meet," said a senior diplomat yesterday, "but if they cannot even agree to meet, what hope is there of getting their followers to stop fighting?"

Police broke Christian crosses as they blocked a march here yesterday by about 30 clergymen protesting against the human rights record of Bophuthatswana, a nominally independent black homeland. (Reuters)



Island targeted: Rosalind Reeve, campaign co-ordinator for the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency, displaying an agency pamphlet in Taipei yesterday, which asks people to boycott Taiwanese products. Conservation groups, accusing Taiwan of

allowing illegal imports of rhinoceros horn, said that they would organise a boycott in Europe and the United States. "Taiwan is a black hole in the endangered species trade. The government's reaction to date will only perpetuate this," Miss Reeve said. (Reuters)

Unita snubs Angolan parliament

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUANDA

ANGOLA'S first democratically elected government was installed yesterday but the opposition Unita (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) party refused to attend the ceremony for fear of assassination attempts against its leaders.

Observers agreed that the colourful but swift ceremony at the Palace of the Congress in the centre of Luanda, the capital, did not represent a step forward for democracy in Angola but, a step back to a one-party state under the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

While the party faithful voted in unison for the MPLA-nominated president of the legislature and his deputy, the 22 delegates from other parties sat indifferently through the proceedings. One non-MPLA politician who declined to give his name for fear of reprisals said: "If this is the future I won't bother coming again. We need an opposition to make democracy work and prevent dangerous constitutional changes that the MPLA might make."

One change expected from hardliners in the once Marxist MPLA could be the outlawing of Unita. "That would certainly result in widespread fighting. At the moment there seems to be only isolated military clashes," a Western ambassador present at yesterday's ceremony said.

Somali agencies reject troops

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

AN AMERICAN offer of up to 30,000 troops to transform the inadequate United Nations effort to save the starving in Somalia into a humanitarian operation met almost universal opposition from relief agencies last night.

The American troops would serve as part of an expanded UN force ready to fight to get aid to the needy without it being looted by the armed bands that rule the country. Lawrence Eagleburger, the acting US Secretary of State, made the offer in an unannounced meeting with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, on Wednesday.

At the same time, the security council tentatively agreed to take extraordinary action to ensure the delivery of aid to Somalia, where an estimated 300,000 people have died from famine and civil conflict since January 1991.

Save the Children said any armed force sent into Somalia without the approval of the warlords would create conditions which would mean that private aid agencies operating there would not be able to continue. "Imposing troops on Somalia as suggested by the US would be a disaster for the whole relief operation," it

said. Another aid source said that it was far more important to put pressure on General Muhammad Farrah Aidid to get things under control and to ensure that the present UN plans for the deployment of 3,500 guards were fully implemented. "The first time a foreign soldier kills a Somali is the end of the foreign aid operation," another relief official added.

Only 500 men have now been deployed in the capital, Mogadishu, but none had yet been sent to the crucial aid centres at Berbera and Bosaso because of opposition from the warring factions.

This whippet is a victim of recession. It used to be a labrador.



When this picture was taken Sally weighed 26lbs. The normal weight for a one year old labrador is about 60lbs.

The RSPCA inspector who rescued her found that every one of her ribs was visible and estimated that she had not been fed by her owner for over three weeks.

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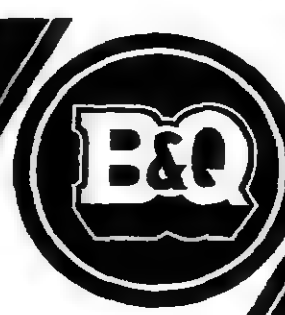
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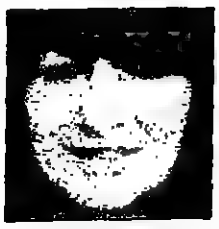
مكتبة الأمل

When animal acts are out, recession is in and times are tough in the big top, send in the controversial clown

A slap in the face for the British clown

It has been an *annus horribilis* for Gerry Cottle too. The last two months have been his worst for ten years. There is the "bloody stupid" objection to animal acts, barring him from setting up his tent in London's lucrative parks. He says nobody can survive with a people-only circus: he's tried it. There is the recession, the rain, the mud. But on Wednesday his *dea ex machina* arrived from Los Angeles: the cute and simpatico Danise Payne, aka Baby D, who will star in his Christmas circus at Wembley.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



reaction to women clowns, as to women priests. Mr Cottle, who went to school with John Major at Rutlish School, but ran away to a circus at 15, is now the nation's circus guardian, a stocky figure of 47 with a thatch of black glossy hair. He

hired Mrs Payne expressly for her game willingness to do PR. She will juggle and ride her unicycle through children's hospital wards and schools in Brent. He says he cannot get this kind of co-operation from the native clown. You can see young clowning talent on the piazza at Covent Garden any day, he says. But if you hire them, after the first summer's novelty has worn off they don't want to muck in, or woo children in schools, or do two shows a day, or travel the road 40 weeks a year. They want longer holidays and more freedom.

"They are prima-donnas," he says. "To me they are useless." They also tend to be joys, in the Joe Grimaldi tradition, in check suits, big shoes and red noses. The joys were out in force at Heathrow on Wednesday, armed with Yank-home placards and spray cans of "custard-pie", ie, shaving cream, which they aimed at Mr Cottle for the cameras. (His garrulity never quite recovered from having swallowed a mouthful.) Far funnier than the clowns was the sight of the mob of cameramen descending in full cry upon a small round black lady with bright yellow hair and a zany orange hat — not Baby D at all.

When the real Mrs Payne at last materialised she proved to be as obliging and articulate as Mr Cottle had promised.

As Baby D Mrs Payne wears a floral print romper suit, outside bonnet and a dolefully expression, and goes about making a nuisance of herself. She has an outside bottle that squirts water, and a giant "pacifier", or dummy. Mrs Payne says children love it: they may fear conventional clown figures, but a baby — even a five-foot baby — is safe.

She is not a joy but an august, a character clown in the Emmett Kelly tradition. She does "sight gags": taking an ordinary object and using it in an extraordinary way. Taking a chair away when someone is about to sit down, she explained, is a sight gag. Cajoled into doing her Baby D act, she clutched at a cameraman in a pestiferous baby way. "He's embarrassed," she said. "So it works."

"Do Americans like being grabbed?" "Oh yes. Oh my, yes."

Apart from the tiresome baby, she has invented a character called Aunt Helen. "She wears a devious dress, but white gloves and a purse, sort of regular Sunday going-to-meetin' clothes. But the things she does are not lady-like. She takes me by surprise, some of the stuff I get myself into."

British clowns say she can't possibly understand the British sense of humour. But the real obstacle is British unease about women clowning at all.



Trouper: Danise Payne will do the unglamorous hospital rounds this season — whereas British clowns, according to Gerry Cottle, are prima donnas



Baby D: takes herself by surprise

'I was playing a ventriloquist's dummy in a vaudeville act when a lady came backstage and told me that with my facial expressions I could make a living as a clown. My first reaction was, a clown? what is this? get outtahere!'

were dating, by New York they went to all the Broadway shows and by Sacramento, in 1981, they married. For five years they lived in New York on the fringes of show business, Danise playing in summer stock, in musicals such as *Hello Dolly* and *The Wiz*. They have no children: "Just us two kids," she says. Now they live in North Hollywood and work in the Los Angeles community circus. She wouldn't mind being a straight actress again. "But clowning gets in the way. And I love clowning so much."

"I am a trouper. In the circus you have to join in, help set up and tear down and fetch props, that's the essence of circus life. I love doing stuff like that: you don't join a circus just to be a clown or a high wire walker. So many circus people are third or fourth generation. It's unique. It's like a sanctuary to come to."

Her mother begged her not to go to England when she saw the British clowns' protest on the *Today* show. "And when I first heard about it I was real scared. But after the custard pie throwing, Barney — Peter Barnes, chairman of Clowns International — gave me such a warm, strong handshake, and said: 'Welcome to England' with good eye contact. It literally made my fears go."

Clown showman, Gerry Cottle. What's a custard pie in the face when you can alchemise such publicity out of adversity?

and act them out with neighbourhood kids. She ended up at "Sac State", California state university at Sacramento, reading French, zoology and drama. "I had a little job as a children's amusement park, called Fairytale Town. I was playing a ventriloquist's dummy in a vaudeville act when a lady came backstage and told me that with my facial expressions I could make a living as a clown. My first reaction was, a clown? what is this? get outtahere!" But then she decided it might be fun, and enrolled at Clown College, the eight-week course for aspiring clowns run by the Ringling

Brothers' Barmum and Bailey circus at Venice, Florida.

Nobody can clown for the Ringlings without attending this course. "You work a 14-hour day and you don't do any written work but boy, you make mental notes. And you get taught by the great old clowns." The first woman clown graduate was Mandi Lou Flippin in 1970, and there are still fewer than 30 women in the Klowns of America union.

She has been married for 11 years to big, gentle Bill Payne, an assistant ringmaster and sometime sax player. They met through the circus one

night, in a snowstorm that cancelled the show. "If you work on the Ringling show," he says, "you live with 400 other employees on a brightly painted train that's one mile long, instead of in a caravan."

When they got to Richmond, Virginia, he found Danise studying a guidebook about the Civil War sites of Richmond. "Up to that point," drawls Bill, "all I ever did was hang out with the boys, and play pool." Now he joined her walking round the historic places. They did the same in all the 90 cities the circus stopped at in the next two years. By Philadelphia they

vehicle with its lights shining out to sea, someone trying to launch or bring in a boat when the tide is wrong, people out late at night with binoculars or perhaps a man standing on a slipway without any fishing equipment.

"With the end of the red and green channels at ports and airports and the general reductions of frontier controls from next January, we are going to have to depend much more heavily on intelligence gathering. So what we are trying to do is build up a picture of our coastline."

Although the volunteer force is sent regular Coastwatch bulletins, its members are not given specific car registration numbers or ship names to look out for — "you can never screen people entirely reliably and we are not in the business of providing a smugglers' information service" — and they are warned never to take any direct action if they see anything suspicious.

The Dover coastal intelligence team has so far received 36 calls from its coastwatchers. "Some of them have certainly helped us add to, or confirm, information we were already working on," Mr Way says. In Yorkshire and Humberside, where a similar scheme has been developed to watch over the coast south of Bridlington, customs officers last month recovered 16 kilos of smuggled cannabis after a pensioner's tip-off.

WILLIAM GREAVES

New mission for dad's army

Home Guard marches into action as drug runners stalk our shores

From his vantage point on a desolate headland, Bob Way scanned the grey waters of the English Channel through powerful binoculars. "Yes, this would be an ideal spot for anyone trying to land drugs," he said. "A gently shelving beach, no tidal problems, a good access road and a big enough village nearby to get lost in within minutes. The trouble is — I could show you another 30 places which would be just as good."

The 108 miles of coast which form England's south-east corner between Seasalter, in Whitstable Bay, and Eastbourne might not look as menacingly lawless as the coves and creeks of Dapline du Maurier's Cornwall but her beleaguered excise men did not have to contend with high-powered RIBs — rigid inflatable boats — dropping off contraband that can be easily concealed and is hard to detect. A packet of heroin worth £100,000 may be only the size of a 2lb sugar carton.

The proximity of the Kent and East Sussex coast to mainland Europe makes it one of Britain's most suscep-

tible drug-running gateways. As a result, the Customs and Excise intelligence network at Dover has recruited the eyes and ears of a "Dad's army" of volunteers to help man the barricades.

"We began by driving the entire coastline and identifying houses which commanded good views of sea, cliffs, creeks and approach roads," says Mr Way, the intelligence network's 38-year-old executive officer. "Then we sent each household a letter and brochure, inviting support. The response has been so good that we now have 140 volunteers on the alert." The volunteer scheme, Coastwatch, was launched earlier this year.

The operation's cloak-and-dagger image is strengthened by the network's headquarters — an anonymous building marked simply "Government Property" at the end of a cul-de-sac in the outskirts of Dover — and by the assurance given to each amateur watchdog that under no circumstances will his or her details be divulged to any other agency.

More than half the coastwatchers are retired peo-



Fight them on the beaches: the volunteer force should make life harder for drug smugglers

ple — hence their affectionate "Dad's army" sobriquet — and many have, or have had, jobs which gave them experience of the sea. Not all live on the coast, however, because local advertising campaigns have brought forward volunteers who walk their dogs or have other reasons for regularly visiting vantage areas.

This week's seizure of 1.1 tonnes of cocaine, worth £160 million, aboard an oil rig support vessel in the Thames was the biggest ever customs drug haul in British waters, but bulk smuggling is unusual. Small, highly profitable, drops by RIBs, which can

cross the Channel from France or Holland in half-an-hour and three hours respectively, are both more popular and harder to detect. The boats slide on to the shore, throw off their cargo and disappear within seconds.

Equally hard to spot are the light aircraft, which dive low over a selected field to drop their payload and fly on to a pre-arranged destination without any apparent deviation from their authorised flight path.

To assist the amateur coastwatchers, they have been issued with silhouette drawings of aircraft ranging from

the substantial King Air Turbo Prop to the skeletal Hughes helicopter, and ships from giant tankers and bulk loaders to the smallest powered dinghy. The suspicious activities for which they look include ships and aircraft on their list operating at night without lights, ships signalling ashore or being met by small craft, merchant shipping at anchor close to land or islands and objects dropped from aircraft.

"But most importantly we want them to be on the lookout for anything which strikes them as unusual in their particular neighbourhood," Mr Way says. "This could be a

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مكتبة الأمل

Every successful politician needs luck, but the hard-pressed Chancellor has had precious little of it recently, says Anthony Howard

Slipping up on a piece of plastic

Poor Norman Lamont has had more bad luck than most politicians. First, his house off Notting Hill Gate was, shortly after he arrived at No 11, inadvertently rented out to a "sex therapist" — leading to a feast of fun at the Chancellor's expense in the tabloid press. It was not his fault (the house had been leased through an agency) but no public figure caught in that sort of pickle ever stands a chance.

The headlines could have been written in a sub-editor's sleep — "Tory Whip Shock" predictably led the field — but that was not the end of the Chancellor's embarrassment. The neighbours joined in, as neighbours will, registering shock and outrage, with one of them even immorally threatening, "I shall certainly write to my MP". Worse than that, the pastor of the nearby Kensington Temple rose to the occasion with a promise to offer counselling to the wayward tenant and a sententious declaration that he would be asking his congregation to pray for her ("Although we

condemn the sin, we love the sinner"). From the viewpoint of the nation's newsmen, that was just the stuff to give the troops and the story began to run and run. By the time conducted journalists' tours had been arranged of the alleged basement "vice den" a good time had been had by one and all — except perhaps for the unfortunate, mortified Lamonts.

It was the kind of misfortune that Dennis Skinner himself might stop short of wishing on a political opponent, even though, once it was out in the open, it necessarily provided irresistible material for Commons taunts. In his gloomiest moments the Chancellor may even have consoled himself with the reflection that it was the sort of accident that could only happen to a politician once. He knows better now. Yesterday's revelation about

his often exceeding the monthly limit on his personal credit card belongs to exactly the same banana skin department.

It is as well to be clear just what this latest exposed amounts to. Like most of the rest of us, Mr Lamont finds dealing in plastic a convenience. He was perhaps a little late in joining the credit revolution, since he has apparently held his current National Westminster Access credit card for just under eight years. In that time, according to the Sun's obliging mole (presumably underground at Access's HQ in Southend), the Chancellor has — shock, horror this time rather than nudge, nudge — exceeded his credit limit of £2,000 no fewer than 22 times.

But how heinous a charge is that? Looked at another way, it means that the number of months in



The tabloids: his flexible foes

which Mr Lamont has kept within the rules exceeds those in which he hasn't by a ratio of at least four-to-one. The rest of us might well be tempted to murmur, "That we should be so lucky".

Nevertheless, Mr Lamont is, of course in a special position. As the steward of the nation's finances over the past two years, should he not be expected to set a provident example? To be fair, it is by no means clear how imprudent he has been to spend, as the Chancellor allegedly did 10 days ago, £17.47 at an off-licence when, already in monthly arrears hardly argues a reckless attitude even to the domestic economy. And let us have no nonsense about special or favoured treatment. Mr Lamont got away with his purchases because the sum involved was too small for the off-licence assistant to need to check with Access for authorisation.

At the worst, therefore, all the Chancellor has done is further to dent any reputation he still enjoys for financial responsibility and prudence. But that is hardly a

discovery likely to provoke a collective nervous breakdown, even within the Treasury. No one, after all, has ever believed that Norman Lamont is a Stafford Cripps or even a Roy Jenkins. In the classic division of politicians between bishops and bookmakers he has always carried the aura of the race-course about with him rather than that of the cathedral close.

There is, though, something else that needs to be said. If political figures — are from now on to be subjected to this sort of prying and snooping, what kind of attraction is going to be left in public life? The material rewards, as it is, are hardly overwhelming. If Mr Lamont from time to time has experienced difficulty in balancing the family household books, as reflected in his current £470 excess spending on his credit card, could it not conceiv-

ably be because at £63,047 p.a. we expect him to maintain the life-style of an international celebrity on the annual salary of the chairman of a modest, medium-sized private company. The salary of a minister is, after all, only just over double that of the humblest backbencher: although much may be written about "perks", the truth is that neither No 11 Downing Street (which counts against any Chancellor's tax coding) nor Dorneywood (where entertainment has to be paid for) comes for free.

Given the House of Commons vote against MPs' salary increases this week, it is probably the last moment to open up that argument — even if cabinet ministers, along with high court judges, remain among the prime casualties of post-war inflation. At £5,000 a year in the 1930s, Norman Lamont would have been a rich man. But then in those days, as the Chancellor may even now be usefully reminding himself, there would have been no temptation to exploit the use of a credit card either.

Tory heartland takes the strain

The council tax will cost suburbia dear, writes Tony Travers

Michael Howard has made the best of a bad job. Yesterday, the environment secretary did all he could to reconcile the irreconcilable. His objectives include holding down the council tax, ensuring public spending is controlled without mass redundancies and placating backbenchers from the south-east of England. All of this has had to be done after the environment department did rather badly out of the autumn statement.

To hold the council tax down, Mr Howard has attempted a pincer movement: tough limits on what each council will be able to spend next year, coupled with a small rise in central funding. Yesterday's figures show that most councils will be restricted to spending rises for next year of between about 0 and 3 per cent in cash on top of this year's budgets. If they exceed these figures, they risk capping.

The extra funding will come through grants and the national business rate. The trouble is that Mr Howard has been unable to get enough extra cash from the Treasury to be absolutely sure that the gap between (even capped) spending and central support is sufficient to avoid unacceptable council tax bills.

What, you might ask, is an unacceptable level of council tax? Luckily for the government the new tax does not have a single, easily disputed figure as a "target" or average. Ministers went to great trouble yesterday to avoid providing a hostage to fortune as they did when poll tax was introduced. At that time, an average figure of about £275 was mooted by ministers, though the real figure turned out at over £360. We all know how popular that turned out to be. The sole national figure produced yesterday will allow few helpful comparisons to be made.

But for next year, ministers are happy to talk about a "real terms" fall in overall levels of local taxation. They are probably correct. There is a real chance that, because of the threat of capping, the amount collected from council tax next year will be less than was paid under the late and unloved community charge. Thus, an average headline level of council tax of about £550 for band D properties, or rather less for the majority of people with band A, B and C properties, could mean cuts in local tax bills next year for most households.

The trouble for the government is that yesterday's announcement could not avoid a number of high-profile losers, particularly in the southern part of the country, where many people have properties in the

higher bands. Large numbers of articulate people living in average or bigger homes in outer London and the home counties may be about to take the view that their council tax bill is unacceptable.

True, Mr Howard announced a system of "transitional relief" which will help losing households. But the maximum losses allowed within the rules set — up to £1.75 per week in lowest band properties and as much as £3.50 per week in the highest band — will still leave many people worse off. As transitional support is removed, the misery will linger.

A fair number of losers will live in nice, Tory boroughs or counties for whom the severity of the spending limits set yesterday may prove just too much. No longer will the threat of "cuts" be restricted to wicked Labour authorities. If they are to avoid capping, most Conservative authorities will, like councils controlled by their higher-spending opponents, find themselves with little more to spend, in cash, next year than this.

As a result, the round of crying wolf about cuts in local government, which normally reaches a peak about this time of year could, for once, lead to a genuine round of savagery next spring.

The fear is that even with a public pay limit of around 1.5 per cent, local authorities will have to shed workers if they are to avoid capping. So real cuts must be on the cards for 1993, possibly by natural wastage, possibly with voluntary redundancies, but possibly requiring compulsory redundancies. Against a background of fast-rising unemployment and with increasing pessimism about growth, sackings would hardly help the government.

If schools start having to sack teachers, ministers would surely fear the political reaction. Now that opted-out and local authority schools are in the hands of governors and parents, small reductions in school budgets could lead to cuts in staff and to a massive political reaction. Pupil-teacher ratios are almost bound to worsen next year.

The government's announcement last night, though it may have made the best of a bad job, will not square the circle. Spending increases by councils will be tiny. Jobs will almost certainly go. Many people in the south-east will find their local council having to make "cuts" while local taxes rise. Council tax itself will be on trial.

The next stage in a long struggle will come in January when MPs vote on the details of the new figures. Anyone for a rebellion?

A timely bow to the taxman

The Queen's decision, says John Grigg, has come not a moment too soon

The Queen's speech on Monday at Guildhall was beyond question one of the most striking and memorable of her reign. Though necessarily read from a text, and with the added handicap of a heavy cold, it came across as more authentic and heartfelt than most of her speeches. Despite the occasional hint of self-pity, the prevalent tone was one of robust worldly wisdom, open-mindedness, even humility.

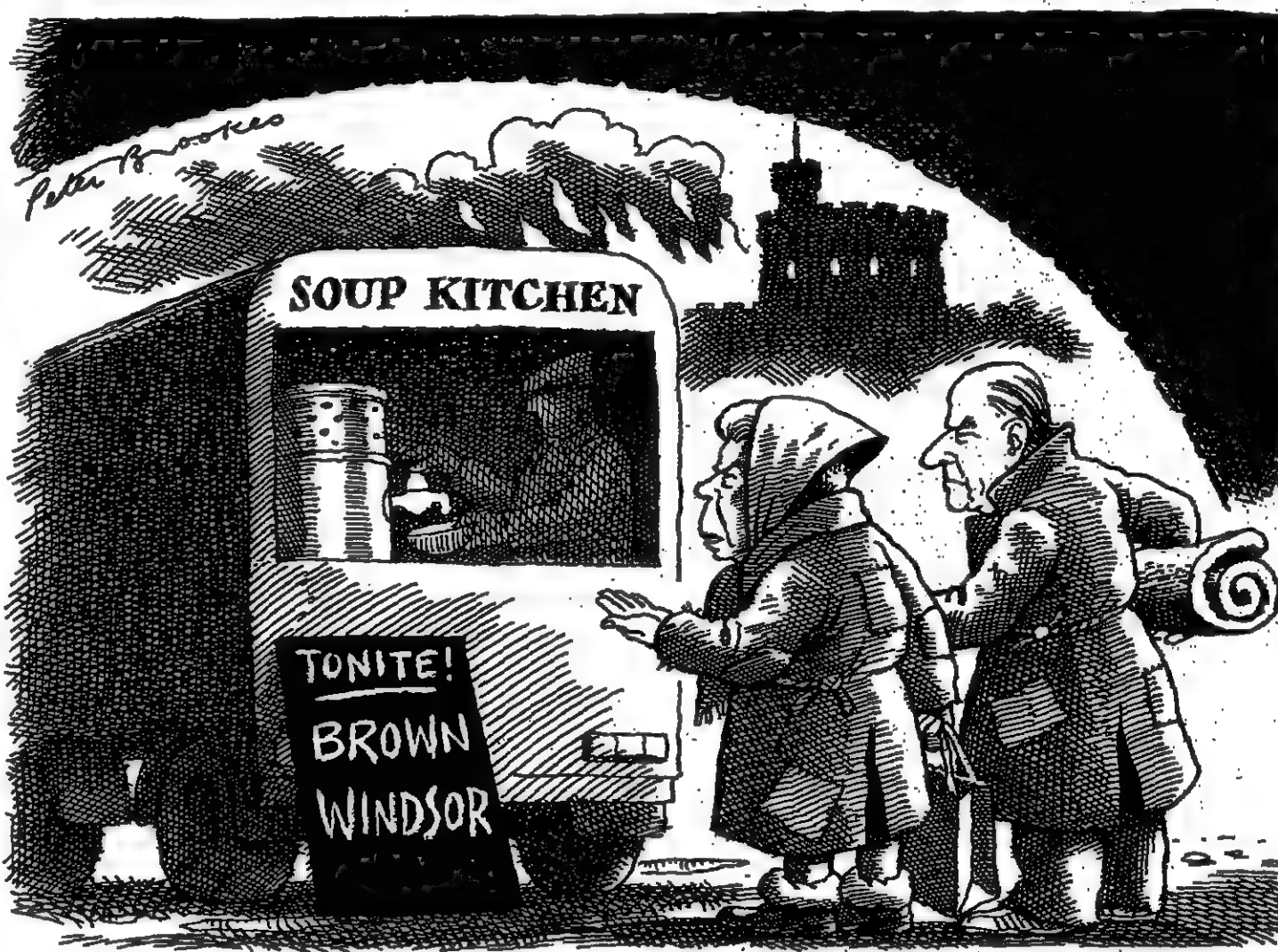
For the first time she conceded that the monarchy, like every other institution in a free country, must be open to criticism, and that reasonable criticism, if made "with a touch of gentleness, good humour and understanding", should be taken to heart. This sort of criticism could act, "and it should do so, as an effective engine for change". Well said, indeed — and now we know that for some months she has been intending to match deeds to words.

It is an unfortunate truth that, if the demand for change is too gentle, the engine is unlikely to spring into motion. Reason has to be reinforced by a head of steam in the form of political, press and above all popular opinion. Such a head of steam has recently existed. But it is vital that the engine should continue to move, and that opinion should not, therefore, be over-concentrated on a single issue, to the neglect of others that are equally, or more, important.

The issue that is now, perhaps, more or less settled is that of the royal finances. It was a serious issue, which should have been tackled long ago. Successive governments were culpably servile in not facing the implications of the Queen's tax immunity, and she was unwise to assume that their servility would guarantee the *status quo* (established by stealth within the present century) for the indefinite future. Her prime ministers, in particular, have served her ill in this matter.

It is not fair to blame her private secretaries or other courtiers, because they are exclusively her servants. Prime ministers are, of course, her servants too, at any rate in the formal sense, but above all they are our servants, elected by us and responsible, through Parliament, to us. Their dual role, and the regular, strictly private, audiences that they have with the sovereign, should enable them to influence her more than anyone else; and they surely have a duty to her, as well as to us, to exercise that influence. (She also has a right and a duty to influence them.)

When our politicians at last, under pressure from outside, turned their attention to the subject of royal finances, many of them showed how little previous thought they had given to it, and how half-baked their ideas consequently were. There was much silly talk of confining the civil list to the Queen



and the heir to the throne (who in any case has his own independent resources), and of cutting out the "minor royals". But in fact many of the latter are not provided for in the civil list, including some — the Kents and Gloucesters, for instance — who do much unobtrusive, but valuable, service to the state, and have a better right to receive civil list payments than some who at present do. The Queen is said to look after them now, as she will apparently in future be looking after most other members of the family.

It is good that the money question seems to have been resolved, and on the Queen's initiative. Any protracted wrangle over it would have been acrid and demeaning. Meanwhile other no less urgent lessons should be drawn from the monarchy's latest *annus horribilis* (one of many, by the way, including some that have been far worse). The first is that the assumption which has so far largely governed recruitment of new members to the royal household, or indeed the royal family, during the present reign, has to be discarded once and for all.

That assumption has been that only people from a very restricted social and ethnic background could be trusted to stick to the rules. How absurd that now seems.

Those "friends" of the Princess of Wales who talked as they did to Andrew Morton, thereby showing an unbelievable disregard for the interests of the monarchy, to say nothing of the interests of the princess's children or her own true interests, were not from state schools or ethnic minorities or other countries of the Commonwealth. They came from just the sort of narrow, privileged British background that was thought to ensure discretion and loyalty. They were quintessential Sloanes, and it is Sloanes who have let the side down.

The case for broadening the base of the Queen's official family, and wherever possible her actual family, is now overwhelming. The top echelons of the royal household must be made to reflect that totality of what the Queen herself represents. If the College of Cardinals has, during the past 40 years,

become truly catholic in composition, it is not too much to expect the royal household to undergo a similar evolution.

To say this is not to overlook the fact that many members of the Queen's present entourage are conspicuously nice, intelligent and admirable. It is merely to suggest that such qualities are not confined to a very small section of the British population, nor by any means always to be counted on in that section. Above all, it is to argue that the Queen needs to have people around her who can give her an understanding of life-experiences very different from her own, and who together can be seen to symbolise what she stands for in the world.

There also needs to be a change of routine, and a greater readiness to depart from routine in response to events. It may be too late now for the Queen to establish residences in other Commonwealth countries, though it is a pity she did not do so earlier in her reign, so that she could have spent in, say, Canada and Australia, some at least of the holiday time she has spent at Sandringham and Balmoral.

It is certainly not too late for the Prince of Wales to establish residences elsewhere in the Commonwealth — most suitably, perhaps, in his case, Australia and India — where he could make himself known and not just appear from time to time as a tourist. The royal family gives the impression of being too huddled together in this country.

As for departures from routine, the Queen has tended to avoid them as a matter of principle. Unscheduled gestures have been comparatively few, and the power of the monarchy to appeal to the imagination has, in this respect, been seriously under-used.

Might it not, for example, have been a fine gesture if she had visited in hospital the brave policeman who was shot while pursuing IRA terrorists, having helped to avert a terrible incident by stopping their van? In such a case a change of schedule on her part would have been more than justified.

If the Queen can move into higher rather than lower gear in the years ahead, her reign, already in so many ways good, may become great.

As if that wasn't enough

NOT A GOOD week for Norman "the-check-is-in-the-post" Lamont. His position as Chancellor is under increasing threat after revelations of unpaid credit card bills. Now comes news that his job as an MP may be on the line. The Boundary Commission is expected to recommend next month that Lamont's Kingston upon Thames constituency should disappear.

The commission will publish proposals next month which are expected to lead to a major reorganisation of parliamentary boundaries. If implemented Lamont's constituency will be one of several which could be swallowed up.

Lamont, far from the most popular member of the government, might find it difficult to secure such a safe, alternative seat in the area. In April he polled double the number of votes of the next closest candidate.

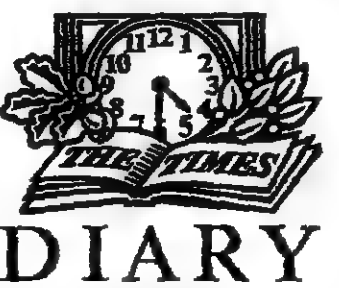
The Chancellor's wards are expected to be moved into neighbouring Richmond and Barnes, a marginal seat, where Jeremy Hanley, a junior minister, is unlikely to make way for his more senior colleague. Hanley has defended the seat, which he originally won in

1983 against all the odds, from a strong Liberal Democrat challenge. He has an impressive local following.

Neighbouring Twickenham, another marginal seat, is also expected to benefit from the scrapping of Kingston, whose electoral roll of 51,000 makes it one of the smallest in the south-east. Toby Jessel, the Twickenham MP, is also unlikely to stand down without a fight, having held the seat since 1970.

Richard Tracey, the MP in the other adjoining seat, Surbiton, is confident he will not be dislodged by the Chancellor. Lamont will have to look further afield. Robert Waller, a polling expert with Harris Research group, says the prospects could be bleak. "It would make sense to do away with Kingston. Norman Lamont would either have to find another seat, which is not always easy, or move upstairs to the Lords."

John Major may not be too pleased by the commission's proposals either. It is expected to argue that 25,000 of the 93,000-strong electoral roll in his Huntingdon constituency be switched into a second Peterborough seat. At



present the prime minister boasts not only the largest constituency but also the biggest Tory majority: 36,230. Peter Brown, Major's agent, says "We will not lose too much sleep over it."

● It didn't take long. Scarcely had yesterday's disclosures about Norman Lamont's alleged non-payment of his Access bill broken than the fiscally challenged Chancellor had a new nickname. At yesterday morning's meeting of the standing committee of the employment Bill in the Commons, a Labour MP dubbed him "my right honourable and flexible friend".

Mission man

PETER JAY's growing influence at the BBC has claimed a prominent casualty. Dominick Harrod, the

veteran BBC Radio economics editor, is to lose his post in an internal shake-up. Jay, BBC television economics editor and a long-time friend of John Birt, director-general designate, will assume Harrod's radio duties.

Harrod, who was a key figure on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme, is reportedly dismayed by losing the job he has held for 13 years. A BBC spokeswoman said: "As far as I am aware Dominick Harrod is in discussions about re-employment. No firm decisions have been taken." Jay, former British ambassador to America under Jim Callaghan, then his father-in-law, will thus become one of the most influential men at the BBC.

Forward thinking

THE cultural exchanges between Britain and the former Yugoslavia continue apace. Greenlloyd, a firm of London architects repairing the historic Baltic Exchange building in the City, which was badly damaged by an IRA bomb, was surprised to receive a visit from a group of 17 Croatian architects this week. "They wanted to know how we deal with bomb-damaged historic buildings," says Warren Le Roy, a director of Greenlloyd. "There is rather a lot of work waiting for them when they get home".



Tomorrow's Spectator, edited by Dominic Lawson (left), carries not one but two apologies by Conrad Black (right), the proprietor. He was wrong, he says, to have taken issue with the magazine's journalists over the American presidential election and Canary Wharf. Lawson says he has never heard before of a proprietor apologising in his own publication.



● The redoubtable Baroness Trumpington, the chain-smoking government whip in the House of Lords, was in fine form at The Spectator parliamentary dinner of the year award at the Savoy Hotel on Wednesday. Trumpington had not long returned from opening an annual artificial insemination centre in the village of Whiffish in Sussex. "Don't be misled into thinking it's

pronounced wily. It's Willy," she boomed at the startled guests.

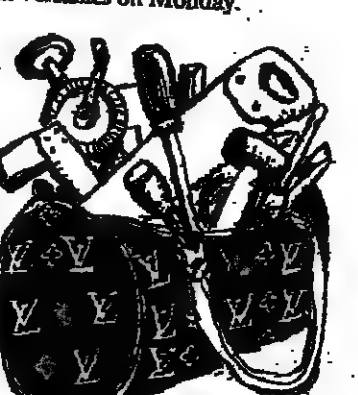
L'État, c'est Moët

VIVE la différence. While parliament is calling the Queen to account for every last penny provided by the taxpayer for the state-owned royal palaces, the French are taking an altogether different approach to

the refurbishment of the palace of Versailles.

The French see it as an honour to be associated with the maintenance of their national heritage. Moët & Chandon, the champagne company, which is owned by the French group Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy, is celebrating its 250th anniversary by paying for the restoration of the African and Crimean salons at Versailles at a cost of millions of francs. Guinness, which has a sizeable stake in LVMH, will indirectly help to finance the work.

Indeed, such is the pomp surrounding the affair that Moët plans to throw a lavish banquet for 250, including Jack Lang, France's minister for education and culture, at Versailles on Monday.





THE ROYAL TAXMAN

Concessions by the Queen should heal the wounds of Windsor

Sensitivity and political skill are required from all sides if the tax changes for the royal family announced yesterday are to bring as much good as their initiators hope. The resentment following the Windsor fire has still to subside. If it does, the premature unveiling of the Treasury's work-in-progress on royal taxation may be beneficial. Changes which were initiated earlier this year and due to be made in the usual secrecy will be finalised instead under a more public scrutiny. Their acceptability may thus be the greater. If, however, the ugliest elements of recent months predominate, if the mood of bitterness that has pervaded so much of the media is maintained, then the government will have created only a charter for the jealous and the curious.

The reforms as revealed so far are small ones. For the Queen and her household the *annus* of 1992 may have been *horribilis*, but the *dies* in 1993 on which the Queen pays her new taxes will not be. Yesterday's answer by the prime minister at question time should give no immediate encouragement to those who want a miniature monarchy. Princes will not be forced onto bicycles. The new arrangements will be voluntary. No laws are to be passed that would require Her Majesty to pay.

The modest aim is clear. Most minor members of royalty, those whose behaviour has brought the Crown into a degree of disrepute, will next year not be funded directly from taxation but will have their monies supplied through the Queen's own purse. The monarch is thereby increasing

her control on some who have been her more unruly subjects.

For her own part the Queen will pay tax on that part of her income deemed to be private. There will be much scope for manoeuvre here. The professed aim is to treat the monarchy as far as possible as a business with a defined business purpose. The bounds of possibility in such definitions are elastic. There is little done by the Queen that is not in some respect demanded by her public position. Her tax inspector can expect no rich pickings.

Nor does this government expect them. Yesterday's announcement was not a promise of greater equity in revenue-raising, still less a drive to fund Northern Line improvements from the recesses of the privy purse. It was a response to a chasm of distrust that has been dug between people and palace by junior royalty and competitive newspapers. The Queen has shown that she realises her political problem. The politicians have realised that, if they stick together in helping the monarch, they may all avoid the dangers of storms that none of them can predict.

Risks lie in the new procedures, none the less. Although the announcement met a generally favourable response yesterday, it is not likely to still all the monarchy's critics. Distinctions between public and private expenses will legitimise enquiries into areas that have hitherto been out of bounds to the curious. There are still some virtues in a monarch being different from the rest of us. It would be a pity if we recognised them only when they had gone.

PRE-DAWN MANOEUVRES

Boris Yeltsin needs Western understanding of his vulnerability

The forces of reaction, a thousand strong, descend on Moscow next Tuesday. Since October 20, when Boris Yeltsin lost his battle with the Russian parliament to defer until next spring the convening of the Congress of People's Deputies, all his considerable political guile has been devoted to building political defences against these ghosts of communism past. He needs defences: the congress may be a political throwback, but it has wide constitutional powers, including power to dismiss the government. Yet his strategy, which appears to be to join with his conservative critics against the congress's diehard opponents of capitalism and political pluralism, is still not securely in place.

On Monday, the Russian president appeared to have secured a truce, at least, with the Civic Union, a powerful alliance of industrial overlords, segments of the military and politicians who claim to support reform in principle, but only if the government dilutes the radicalism of its faltering programme. A few heads rolled in the second rank of Mr Yeltsin's ministers and advisers, and there was talk of concessions to Civic Union demands for more aggressive state management of the transition to a market economy and, crucially, generous new subsidies for ailing state enterprises.

Yesterday, this marriage of convenience appeared to dissolve. Seemingly with Mr Yeltsin's backing, Yegor Gaidar, the avowedly radical acting prime minister, flatly rejected four central Civic Union demands. There would be no return to the old system of state procurement and distribution, no prices and wages freeze, and the government would block the 1000 billion roubles in fresh credits to industry promised by the governor of Russia's central bank earlier this month.

Reality lies somewhere in between. The positions of Mr Yeltsin and Arkady Volysky, the most formidable of his Civic Union critics, have been drawing closer for some weeks. Mr Yeltsin has even paid tribute to the alliance as a basis for "a modern, civilised two-party system". Mr Volysky has insisted that he is no supporter of authoritarianism.

But they have yet to agree on terms. The larger role for the state in "the formation of market relations" agreed on Monday is a wonderfully vague formula. Mr Yeltsin is struggling against demands to flesh that out with specific commitments which would limit his freedom of manoeuvre. But he is aware that public support for reform is wavering just as the going is about to get tougher. With production continuing to fall, Civic Union strikes a chord with ordinary workers when it accuses the government of destroying Russian industry.

If the pace of reform slows, the West should be understanding. Monetary stability, however vital, is probably unattainable without a payments union with other rouble-using republics. A convertible rouble may have to wait on the establishment of such basics of a free market as fiscal reforms and new commercial and property laws. Even Western governments are prior at picking winners in industry; the Russian government is likely to be worse. But selective state subsidy may be the only alternative to unacceptable levels of unemployment.

The government has scored some successes, such as price liberalisation, on which Mr Yeltsin should stand firm. But before it takes the huge step of exposing the really big state enterprises to the market, the government needs to find money for millions who would then be thrown out of jobs.

Russia has an admirable social security system, which keeps redundant workers on full pay for three months and ensures that no long-term unemployed receive less than the equivalent of the minimum wage. But without foreign support, the government would be hard put to finance it: once unemployment rises from less than 2 per cent, as now, to five or ten times that figure.

Mr Yeltsin's popularity has survived the fall in living standards; it would not survive downright penury. Mr Yeltsin is relying on his wits to see him through the congress. The West should think hard about helping him address the fears of economic collapse which render him vulnerable in the longer term.

A FAIRER DEAL

The new council tax deserves to survive

The poll tax was widely criticised for being unfair, even in Tory ranks. That a duke should pay as little as a dustman ran against every tenet of social justice. Now, with the new council tax, Conservative MPs are protesting afresh. The duke will pay more than the dustman — and the duke, of course, is a Tory vote living in a Tory constituency. Logic is rarely the victor where politics are concerned. While the duke's council tax bill will undoubtedly be greater than his poll tax, it will still be smaller than it would have been under the old rating system. The council tax, although banded according to the value of the property, is artificially squeezed. Those in the highest band will pay no more than three times those in the lowest band.

This mild inequity is already a sop to the Tory faithful. They should remember that the poll tax had to be replaced because the public — including many people who gained from the flat-rate tax — would not stand for it. What many Tory MPs failed to realise at the time was that the poll tax was a tax on Labour voters: the poor were penalised at the expense of the rich. Inevitably any fairer successor to the poll tax was going to look like a tax on Conservative voters.

Now these MPs are faced with anger from their constituents who, in the depths of recession and with the value of their houses falling faster than elsewhere in the country, will have to find the money to pay higher bills. Had the debacle of the poll tax never

welcome replacement for the rates. That is the price the government pays for not having listened to sense in the first place.

Conservative MPs will also encounter the wrath of their local councillors as they return home for the Christmas recess. This happens every year: the revenue support grant settlement is announced before Christmas, and by the time MPs return in January, they are full of righteous indignation about the inevitable and drastic cuts in services that their local councils will be forced to swallow.

First, they should think hard about the consequences of yet another failure to reform local government finance. After the centralising trend of the past 13 years, the amount of local government spending covered by local taxes has fallen from over 50 per cent to well under 20 per cent. That in itself is a disgrace to democracy. But if backbench acrimony brings down council tax, the environment department will not be in the mood to try again. It will simply decide to fund all local government expenditure centrally through VAT and income tax.

If that happened, what would there be left to vote about in council elections? Local government might as well become an administrative outpost of Whitehall, with its expenditure and services determined from London. That should concentrate the minds of restless Tory MPs. Better some local democracy than none at all. Better a reasonably fair local tax than one that hurts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9GN Telephone 071-782 5000

Fresh thoughts on castle rebuilding

From the Editor of *The Architects' Journal*

Sir, Windsor Castle is an icon, and the monarchy employs symbolism and seeming magic. This was understood by the Queen's predecessors, who constantly altered and enlarged the castle in serving that need. They recognised the myth in a manner appropriate to their age, and their own tastes.

There are suitable cases for replication. This is not one of them. We should not demolish what stands but neither should we be grubbing in the cinders of nineteenth-century interventions in the myth-making process, refuting what are fakes anyway. Instead, we should add another layer to an unfolding history in order to express the art and spirit of our times.

This is not a question of demolition and rebuilding, but of making interventions in the remaining fabric in a manner that respects existing materials. To take just one example: modern methods of production and installation allow glass to be used architecturally on a scale and with a subtlety which would be the envy of the nineteenth-century pioneers, like Paxton, architect of the Crystal Palace.

Modern British architects as diverse as Michael Hopkins, Sir Norman Foster, Richard MacCormac and William Whitfield have shown how old and loved buildings can be added to and enhanced — in locations as diverse as the old *Financial Times* building, the Royal Academy of Arts, Trinity College, Cambridge, and Whitehall.

But we can go one step further and consider the more radical proposition of changing Windsor Castle's role into something more than a royal residence and a venue for state occasions: it could also become a major international museum of art.

Architectural interventions at the Louvre and the Smithsonian have turned them into museums which will respond to the demands of tourism and scholarship well into the next century. No British museum compares.

At Windsor, money and time saved on painstaking post-fire reconstruction and building detective work could be used to fill the new structures with modern works of art and craft. Artists, furniture makers, sculptors, glass engravers, interior and lighting designers, carpet and tapestry makers and other specialists could join architects in a festival of design and building that would involve the nation.

People queued to see the new South Bank exhibition during the Festival of Britain, and later the new Coventry cathedral. It's not happened since: it could if the Queen and her government had the courage to be patrons, not pasticheurs, and transformed Windsor Castle into one of the great museums of the world.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN GREENBERG,
Editor,
The Architects' Journal,
33-39 Bowring Green Lane, EC1,
November 25.

Clerical dress

From the Reverend Dr G. A. Hodge

Sir, The Reverend Michael Northwood (letter, November 23) raised an important issue about hats which lady aspirants to the priesthood should study. The correct clerical hat for liturgical wear (inside a church) is a "biretta". These come in a nice black for priests and purple for a bishop. If you are ambitious they come in stiff ottoman silk and those worn by the holder of a PhD can have four "wings" rather than three.

Also available is a "zucchetto", a

From Dr J. M. Wober

Sir, The need to restore Windsor Castle is now, sadly, dividing the nation, the loyal restorationists being opposed by the penny-pinching egalitarians. I have seen little creative thought about how people can benefit from this sad event.

There should first be an architectural competition to determine how the restoration should be made. Options should include a wholly new design for the destroyed parts, a wholly faithful replica of the previous structure, or mixtures between the two such as a modern core with a traditional cladding. To win such a competition would be a major prize for any competing company and the winner might pay (not receive) a privilege fee of, say, £1 million.

Yours sincerely,
MALLORY WOBER,
17 Lancaster Grove, NW3,
November 24.

From Mr Michael Manser

Sir, There are three ways of rebuilding the affected parts of Windsor Castle. The burnt sections can be accurately replicated (but that would be very expensive); or the interiors and exterior could be recreated as an accurate, thin-skin pastiche supported by economical, light-construction methods; or what is repairable could be repaired and the rest replaced.

The third of those options has a different kind of veracity and would continue the castle's tradition of evolution and change. It is not an option for the cautious, however, because it involves new design and carries the risk of aesthetic failure.

A cautionary tale is that of Uppark, in West Sussex, the great house most recently destroyed by fire (September 1989). It had an exquisitely delicate elegance, redolent of the passage of generations of occupants, and it was one of our most sublime treasures from the last seventeenth century. No effort or expense has been spared in a (now unsurpassable) faithful reconstruction, but Uppark now is now what Uppark was — a work of art executed at a point in time.

The when and how is a part of the whole. Art cannot be recreated. A Holbein picture lost in a fire could be faithfully reproduced and become almost indistinguishable from the original, but few would suggest it be done, or that it would then be the peer of the original.

Buildings, however, have an enormous construction cost. Can that cost be justified if the building is not going to be as before? And if it never can be the same, perhaps a realistic compromise is to settle for good pastiche supported by low-cost background construction. Such a solution has an ironic irony of its own. Even better, repair and replace.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MANSEY,
Manser Associates (architects),
Bridge Studios,
Hammersmith Bridge, W6,
November 23.

small round skull-cap, again black for priests, purple for bishops and should there be some very high-flying women about in the theological colleges Messrs Barbicani of Rome do a few white ones.

Outside church the "caré" is more fetching than a Bishop Andrews style, but the Canterbury cap favoured by the late Archbishop Ramsey might go over an elaborate hairstyle.

Truly yours,
GRAHAM A. HODGE,
Farrington Rectory,
Nr Alton, Hampshire.

Teaching standards

From Professor Edward C. Wragg

Sir, In her ill-informed snipe at state education (article, November 17) Janet Daley refers to me as the "godfather of progressivism", whatever that may be, and then attacks a stereotype which bears no resemblance at all to my views or those of most teachers.

Her assertion that teachers do not believe in structure or the imparting of knowledge is utter bunk. I have constantly stressed the importance of knowledge, often quoting the example of surgeons, at the pinnacle of human achievement, who need knowledge, skills and understanding.

Indeed, my most recent research project has been precisely on the topics of subject knowledge and teachers' explaining strategies, as she would have known had she read properly the set of papers *Education: Putting the Record Straight*, which she mentions in her article.

Nor is she right to assert, without evidence, that standards amongst 11-year-olds were "dropping alarmingly" in the eighties. The government's own monitoring of thousands of primary school-leavers from 1984 to 1988, for example, showed that in mathematics, standards rose in four of five areas tested, namely measures, geometry, algebra and probability/statistics.

Yours faithfully,
E. C. WRAGG,
(Director), School of Education,
University of Exeter,
Heavitree Road, Exeter, Devon.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be

Life and death in Tony Bland case

From the Archbishop of Glasgow

Sir, The High Court has declared the lawfulness of withdrawing tube-feeding on the ground that continuing it was not in Mr Tony Bland's "best interests". According to your own reading of the judgment (leading article, November 20) the main factor influencing the determination of Mr Bland's "best interests" was the judge's sympathy for the view that his life lacked dignity and meaning.

Any such view would indeed imply that Mr Bland would be better off dead, and would suggest that the object of withdrawing tube-feeding is to end his life. On this interpretation of "best interests", what is being justified is intentional killing by starvation.

The judgment provides no grounds for rejecting this interpretation of it. Indeed it is remarkable that Sir Stephen Brown said nothing to rebut the Official Solicitor's argument that the choice to withdraw tube-feeding was a choice intentionally to bring about death.

The High Court judgment is therefore deeply unsatisfactory. It is essential for the protection of all vulnerable patients that the Appeal Court should reconsider the issues in a way clearly consistent with recognising that every innocent human being, however deprived and debilitated, enjoys a basic right not to be intentionally killed.

To make such a right seem to depend on the enjoyment of a particular quality of life would be to abandon justice in the care of patients for arbitrariness and convenience.

Yours sincerely,
THOMAS J. WINNING,
(Chairman, joint bioethics committee,
Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland),
Curial Offices,
196 Clyde Street, Glasgow 1,
November 24.

From Mr Luke Gormally

Sir, Tube-feeding of Tony Bland can continue to serve the normal purpose of taking food. So the reason for withdrawing it seems to be the judgment that it is a "benefit" to put an end to his present condition. Why, then, is the planned withdrawal not to be characterised as murder by intentional omission?

Why, furthermore, is the manifestly living Tony Bland judged no longer to have a "human life"? The short answer seems to be, because nothing of value is going on in his head. But there are surely many other human beings (not all of them in a persistent vegetative state) of whom the same might be said.

The right not to be murdered, like other basic rights, belongs to human beings just because of the ineliminable dignity and value which attaches

to their humanity, not because of any distinctive value attaching to activities of which they may or may not be capable.

If the Appeal Court does not face the issues raised by the Tony Bland case in a way that is consistent with recognising the ineliminability of innocent human life but merely endorses the High Court judgment, then the judiciary will seem to have accommodated the classic contention of proponents of non-voluntary eugenic euthanasia: one may intentionally kill those judged to lack worthwhile lives. Procedural provisions will be no safeguard in the long term against the working out of the logic of that principle.

Yours sincerely,
LUKE GORMALLY,
(Director), The Linacre Centre,
60 Grove End Road, NW8.

From Dr Michael J. Powers

Sir, The terms of the declaration of the High Court in the Tony Bland case (Law Report, November 23) are that the court would declare that the health authority and the responsible physician "may lawfully discontinue all life sustaining treatment and medical support measures designed to keep Anthony Bland alive... and they may lawfully discontinue and thereafter need not furnish medical treatment to him except for the sole purpose of enabling Anthony Bland to end his life and to die peacefully with the greatest dignity and the least distress" (emphasis added).

Whilst the declaration may not purport to make lawful the administration of a drug to end Anthony Bland's life, what medical treatment can have the "sole purpose of enabling (him) to end his life and to die peacefully" which has any purpose other than hastening his death?

A decision deliberately to cause death through starvation and dehydration to a patient who has any ability to feel pain or distress would be both outrageous and unlawful. Anthony Bland is not such a patient. He is already at peace and incapable of appreciating suffering.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. POWERS,
1 Paper Buildings, Temple, ECA,
November 26.

From Mrs Judith A. Apichella

Sir, If the parents, the doctor and the judge all feel that Tony Bland should be killed, why kill him by slow starvation and dehydration? Why not inject some potent poison and kill him speedily?

Sincerely yours,
JUDITH A. APICHELLA,
32 Westfield,
Harwell, Didcot, Oxfordshire,
November 23.

Medical pay review

From Sir Trevor Holdsworth

Sir, You carry a report today about the response of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration to the announcement of the government's pay limit, as set out in the Autumn Statement. I should like to restate your description of the review body's position.

The government determines the remuneration of doctors and dentists paid from NHS funds; the review body is an independent advisory body to the prime minister, contributing to the process of making that decision.

Following the decision on pay restraint announced in the Autumn Statement the review body considered that the government had made this advisory process unnecessary this

year, whilst welcoming the government's assurance that the normal process would resume next year. However, the government and the British Medical Association have both asked the review body to consider further if it could advise on the implications of the decision for the general medical practitioners' fee scale and NHS consultants' merit awards.

We are considering our response to this request. We are neither scabbing the prime minister nor refusing to co-operate with the pay policy set out in the Autumn Statement.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR HOLDSWORTH,
(Chairman, Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration),
Office of Manpower Economics,
22 Kingsway, WC2,
November 26.

Tests stump adults

From Mr M. L. Taylor

Sir, Four skipping ropes cost £5, five pencils cost 75p, I can buy five balls for £1.25 and three jigsaws for £1.80; but, like Mr Brace and Mr Elliott (letters, November 20) I still cannot understand the sample calculation question for seven-year-olds which you published on November 13.

I showed it to my wife, who is a maths teacher, and she studied it for a full three minutes before deducing the object of the question.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL L. TAYLOR,
5 Reading Avenue,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

From Mrs Mervyn Ferguson

Sir, After unsuccessfully attempting to solve the calculator test we turned to our son, aged 6½: "How could you help your friend under the mistake?" He answered "press delete". Was he right?

Yours faithfully,
MERRYN FERGUSON,
Alton Albany, Barr, Givran, Ayrshire.

From Mrs P. D. Clarke

Sir, Thank goodness Mr Brace and Mr Elliott were unable to solve the calculator test in the proposed tests for seven-year-olds. I couldn't either — and I teach them!

Yours faithfully,
ANNE CLARKE,
37 Church Street,
Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Maldon, Essex.

سكيا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

SIR HUGH WONTNER

Sir Hugh (Walter Kingwell) Wontner, GBE, CVO, president and former chairman and managing director of the Savoy hotel group, Clerk of the Royal Kitchens and a former Lord Mayor of London, died on November 25 aged 84. He was born on October 22, 1908.

FOR MORE than three decades Hugh Wontner presided, with dramatic flair, over four of Europe's most illustrious hotels — the Savoy, Claridges, the Berkeley and the Connaught — with an unshaken commitment to excellence, style and luxury, regardless of the cost. In doing so he ensured that his hotels attracted the most prestigious clientele and remained London landmarks as famous as Nelson's Column and Buckingham Palace. He also beat off attempted take-overs from Sir Charles Clore, Harold Samuel, Victor Matthews of Trafalgar House, Sir Maxwell Joseph of Grand Metropolitan and — the most persistent of all — Lord Forte whose marathon efforts lasted eight years and have still not ended.

Wontner's business philosophy was that standards should never be compromised simply for an extra penny of profit. The Savoy, he said, could satisfy every whim of the most exacting guest as satisfactorily at 4 am as at 4 pm. There were always enough rich people, he argued, willing to pay for the best.

The success of this strategy was effectively summed up, during the heat of Lord Forte's campaign to gain control of the Savoy, by a letter writer to *The Times*:

"I have never had to carry my own luggage at the Savoy, which is more than can be said for Trusthouse Forte hotels".

Hugh Walter Kingwell Wontner was the son of a distinguished actor, Arthur Wontner. His mother was an actress but gave up the stage when her three children were born. Home was in Bedford Park, Chiswick, and then Regent's Park. Wontner was educated at Oundle and in France but was not, he said later, an academic pupil. On his return to London, not yet 20, he joined the secretarial staff of the London Chamber of Commerce. In 1933, at the age of 25, he was appointed general secretary of the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Great Britain.

It was in that position — and as secretary of the Coronation Commemorative Committee, set up by the London hotels to cope with the rush of bookings at the time of George VI's coronation — that Wontner came to the attention of George (later Sir George) Reeves-Smith, who had been managing director of the Savoy group since 1900.

Reeves-Smith was impressed by Wontner's administrative abilities. But the young man had other qualities also which appealed to the veteran managing director: a discerning palate for wines, a taste for travel, and a consuming passion for the theatre. To Reeves-Smith, whose own brother Harry was a fine actor and whose hotel had been founded by and was still closely associated with the D'Oyly Carte family, Wontner must have seemed ideal Savoy material. In 1938 he invited Wontner to join the group as his assistant.

Wontner came to the Savoy at an exciting time. War was looming and



Front of house at the Savoy: Sir Hugh Wontner and his commissionaire

the elegant lines of the public rooms were being obscured by steel girders and sandbags. Staff were doing double duty as air-raid wardens and nurses. Soon the hotel's air-raid facilities were in greater demand than its suites and as the war progressed the chefs laid aside steak tartare and began to improvise with spam and dried eggs.

Throughout this period Wontner remained as imperturbable as his mentor, Reeves-Smith, and the two of them strained every nerve to ensure that, even in the most difficult circumstances, the hotel should offer its guests, efficiency, courtesy and as much comfort as it could muster.

In May 1941 Reeves-Smith died at the age of 86. When Rupert D'Oyly Carte, the Savoy chairman, came to look for a replacement for the man who had guided the group's fortunes for more than 40 years, he had no doubts about the succession. He appointed the 32-year-old Wontner as managing director.

The prospects for the Savoy looked rather bleak then: the new managing director took over. Bookings were sparse and many of the key personnel were in the services. But this period did not last long. When America entered the war business picked up sharply as officers, diplomats, trade officials and journalists vied with one another for rooms and suites. The hotel became a meeting place for war leaders. Lord Mountbatten, Charles de Gaulle, Jan Masaryk, the Czech leader, and General Wavell were among the regular Grill Room diners and the hotel's air-raid shelters were the smartest in London.

Wontner proved a resourceful hotelier during the war years. Irked by a court case in which the Savoy was accused, but absolved, of buying chickens at above the controlled

price, the new managing director decided to set up a poultry farm in Surrey which not only met all the hotel's needs but provided, in addition, large numbers of eggs which were sold to an eager public.

The end of the war did not ease the problems faced by the hotel and catering trade. Food shortages and restrictions continued and hoteliers had to cope for some years with the five shilling limit on the price of a meal.

The Savoy had its own particular problems, not least the extensive damage sustained during hostilities. But Wontner was determined to return the hotel fast to its former glory, for he could see that in the post-war years the capital would become a magnet for foreign visitors, especially Americans. The group invested heavily in repairing the war damage and in re-equipping and re-stocking both the Savoy and the other major hotels, the Berkeley and Claridges, which it owned.

Wontner made himself indispensable during this period and in 1947, on the death of the chairman, Rupert D'Oyly Carte, the board appointed Hugh Wontner to the post. He was the first person to fulfil the dual roles of chairman and managing director since Richard D'Oyly Carte, Rupert's father.

Under his delicate control Claridges became a home in London for numerous statesmen, from President Tito and King Hussein to Gandhi, while the Savoy attracted such showbusiness stars as Frank Sinatra and Sophia Loren.

During the next three decades Wontner led the group through a period of consolidation and expansion: in 1956 he purchased the Connaught and in the early 1960s decided to move the Berkeley. When

the new Berkeley eventually opened in Knightsbridge in 1972 Wontner was immensely proud of his handiwork, describing it — perhaps controversially — as the last really de-luxe hotel to be built in Europe. He was careful to achieve a size somewhere between going over into mass production and being so small that it would be impossible to make money.

Wontner resisted several attempts to persuade him to expand the Savoy group internationally on the grounds that with such expansion the group's commitment to quality might suffer.

The original Berkeley was at the centre of the first major takeover bid faced by Wontner, who over the years was to prove himself resourceful and cunning at fighting off such unwelcome approaches.

In 1953 the entrepreneur Charles Clore began buying shares in the Savoy which he then sold to Harold Samuel, the property tycoon. When a Board of Trade enquiry revealed that he was Samuel who was building up a stake in the group Wontner guessed that his real target was not the Savoy itself but the Berkeley, whose Piccadilly site would make a remarkable acquisition for the property developer.

Wontner devised a simple but effective defence. He transferred control of the freehold of the Berkeley to the Savoy Staff Benevolent Fund, making it virtually impossible to acquire. Samuel soon backed off and offered his shares to Wontner. The freehold was then transferred back to the Savoy and subsequently sold at a large profit, the proceeds being used to finance the new Berkeley in Knightsbridge.

Wontner changed the share structure of the group in 1955 in an effort to fend off further bids, but this did not stop several groups making

attempts. He successfully fought off Trafalgar House in the early seventies and almost a decade later engaged in a furious battle with Sir Charles Forte, whose Trusthouse Forte group made several, acrimonious and unsuccessful raids on the Savoy. Wontner, at 6 ft 1 in was not averse to enjoying the comparison of size in his battle with the diminutive Charles Forte.

During these take-over battles, Wontner was adept at deflecting criticism of the group's financial performance, pointing out that, in nearly a century, there had been only five years when the group had not made a profit.

THF eventually gained 69 per cent of the Savoy's equity but only 42 per cent of voting rights. As a result, a legal settlement was reached three years ago, under which the Savoy continued to give Lord Forte's son Rocco, chief executive of Trusthouse Forte, and Donald Main, its finance director, seats on the main board in return for which it undertook not to buy any more shares in the Savoy for at least five years.

A year before this settlement, Wontner stepped down from his position of chairman and managing director but remained as president of the Savoy group.

Throughout his career Hugh Wontner was admired by business associates for his acumen, integrity and loyalty while being accused by his critics of aloofness and arrogance. Beneath a genial manner, there certainly lay steady determination and a fair degree of ruthlessness. He admitted the aloofness which, he said, probably stemmed from the fact that he preferred the company of women to men. He had no close male friends, he said, and found the softer approach of women more congenial.

Wontner was closely associated with the Royal Household over many years. He was appointed a Catering Adviser in 1938 and in 1953 was appointed Clerk of the Royal Kitchens, a post which was revived specially for him, having lapsed in the early days of Queen Victoria's reign.

Like his predecessor, Reeves-Smith, Hugh Wontner always looked at home in formal or ceremonial garb, and he had more opportunities than most to do it, being a member of several livery companies, the recipient of a string of foreign orders, and the holder of a number of distinguished offices in the City of London, most notably that of Lord Mayor in 1973-74.

But perhaps the group of which he was most proud of being a member was The Old Stagers, the world's oldest amateur dramatic society, to which he was elected in 1937 and in which he was still playing an active part more than forty years later.

His devotion to the Savoy Theatre, its bricks and mortar, its decor and what played on stage, was complete. He was chairman and managing director of the theatre from 1948. He was devastated when it burnt down in 1990 and personally supervised its reconstruction. The recent topping-out ceremony, conducted by Prince Edward, gave him immense pleasure and only a few days before his death he was talking about presiding over the re-opening next year.

Hugh Wontner was knighted in 1972. He is survived by his wife Catherine two sons and a daughter.

KATHLEEN HILL

Kathleen Hill, MBE, Winston Churchill's secretary during the second world war and later, for 23 years, the curator of Chequers, died on November 16 aged 92. She was born on August 20, 1900.

THROUGHOUT nine of the most crucial years in British history, Kathleen Hill sat close to the heart of power and government. Yet she died with her store of secrets still intact. She was the model of model secretaries.

She was at Churchill's side at times of triumph and disaster: when he replaced Neville Chamberlain at 10 Downing Street; at the time of the allied victory in Europe; and when he lost the 1945 General Election. She was with him on early visits to President Roosevelt, her notebooks and typewriter at the ready.

She recalled in later years his evident distress on hearing that the battleship *Prince of Wales* had been sunk in the Far East and graphically described the "buzzing" atmosphere whenever the great man was in full flow.

She took dictation from him in his car, while he paced up and down his war time bunker and even in his bedroom — where she would sit at the foot of his bed, a typewriter on her knee. She typed some of the most famous speeches in the language, on at least one occasion while Churchill was on his feet in the House of Commons, the pages being passed forward to him as he spoke. Her shorthand and her typing were impeccable and Churchill never troubled to check her copy — though he dictated at great speed.

Yet the woman who knew so much never kept a diary or tried to capitalise upon her memories. She divulged only the most trivial information — and usually only to set the record straight after some journalist or historian had erred. Her reward for such professional discretion was that Winston Churchill trusted her implicitly.

Kathleen Hill's job came through a secretarial agency. An accomplished violinist who had made broadcasts and played in public, she had hoped to be given a post in a girl's school, where she could make an input to its musical curriculum. She never regretted, however, the chance decision which took her to a Churchill and changed the future course of her life.

She was born Kathleen Spratt in Portsmouth, where her father worked for the Royal Navy in Portsmouth dockyard. She began work there as a 17-year-old secretary in the first world war, developing the skills which were later to take her to the top. But she left for India after the war was over, to marry George Hill, an official of the Bengal-Nagpur railway. Their

wedding which took place, despite opposition from their families, was held in Bombay cathedral in 1924. The new Mrs Hill became a Girl Guide district commissioner and subsequently took a job as secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Girl Guides in All-India, Lady Linlithgow.

Her marriage ended unhappily, however, and she returned to this country where she began working for Churchill in 1937. Based at Chartwell, she was chiefly involved, at first in Churchill's journalism and literary life.

She later moved with him to Downing Street as his personal private secretary, heading a team of three who worked a shift system during the war, sleeping and working in Downing Street itself or its so-called annex.

Following Churchill's defeat in the 1945 General Election, however, the curator at Chequers retired and she was offered the job by the Chequers Trust. She accepted, commenting to friends that one could be a secretary for too long, and spent the next 23



years running the Prime Minister's official country residence for six more holders of the office. The six included Churchill in the early 1950s, though as he normally continued to use Chartwell, he gave her and her staff (traditional drawn from the three services) an easy time.

To all of them, from Clement Attlee to Harold Wilson, before her retirement in 1969, she devoted the same qualities of loyalty, efficiency and discretion. Her signed photographs of all of Britain's prime ministers over a period of 30 years must be among the rarest collections of that kind.

But her signed copies of all Churchill's books were sold in Sotheby's earlier this year when she had to enter a nursing home after a fall. Her former husband inherited a Cromwellian baronetcy 12 years ago, becoming Sir George Hill, 9th Bt. Their son Richard was made the 10th baronet on his father's death, but he died last March and Mrs Hill is survived by two grand-daughters.

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Post Office



BUSINESS 21-28

Jumbo task for experts in the rescue business



ARTS 29-31

James Levine brings over sound of Vienna



SPORT 36-40

Cantona leaves Leeds for Old Trafford

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Page 39

THE TIMES 2

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

FINE CUT



BPB, the plasterboard group, is cutting its interim dividend despite a rise in profits as the recession continues to bite *Times*, page 22

JAPAN JOLT

As Japan's economic bubble bursts, the OECD is urging that nation to hasten micro-economic reforms *Page 23*

DEAR DIET



Northern Foods has lifted profits in the run-up to Christmas, but says food prices will rise in 1993 *Pages 22 and 23*

TOMORROW



David Rowland, the chairman of Sedgwick, aims to restore the image of Lloyd's when he becomes the insurance market's next chairman

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5227 (-0.0050)
German mark 2.4284 (+0.0032)
Exchange index 78.7 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2056.0 (+22.9)
FT-SE 100 2741.8 (+32.2)
New York Dow Jones Closed
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17479.04 (+177.03)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%
3-month interbank: 7.75%
3-month eligible bills: 6.75-6.8%
US: Prime Rate: 5%
Federal Funds: 3%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.24-3.25%
30-year bonds: 10.1-10.15%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1.5215
£ DM2.4280
£ Sfr1.4270
£ FF16.2850
£ Yen138.00
C index 72.7
ECU 10.80931
ECU 236.046
Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$334.55 PM \$334.70
COBI \$334.60-335.10
E219.90-220.40
New York:
Comex \$333.25-333.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) ... \$18.85/bbl (\$19.20)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.9 October (1987-100)
Denotes Wednesday's close



Weathering recession: Graham Hawker, left, managing director, and John Elfed Jones, of Welsh Water, at Llanishen Reservoir, Cardiff

Water payouts flow faster than inflation

By COLIN CAMPBELL

WELSH Water and South West Water, privatised three years ago, yesterday declared interim dividends comfortably above the rate of inflation. Welsh Water's interim dividend rises by 9.4 per cent to 7.8p a share, and that being paid by South West Water by 9.9 per cent to 7.8p a share.

Both companies reiterated their commitment to long-term dividend growth, and despite recession, both indicated that year-end profits would be satisfactory.

Pre-tax profits for the six months ended September at Welsh Water rose from £74.1 million to £75.3 million. John Elfed Jones, the chairman, said there had been further operating efficiencies and that higher environmental standards were being achieved. "We have a sound platform for future growth and the balance sheet remains strong," he added. The capital investment programme was on target at £88 million, up from £78 million in the previous first half. Welsh Water added.

Keith Court, chairman of South West Water, reported pre-tax profits for the six months ended September of £48.9 million (£47.1 million), and operating profits of £41.6 million (£33.3 million). "We are continuing to make good progress, with further advances in the quality of performance and capital expenditure," he said. Capital expenditure in the first half was 29 per cent higher at £90 million, 71 key schemes had been completed this year, and more than 400 schemes are in progress.

After negotiations with the director-general of Water Services this month, South West Water said that infrastructure charges for water had been reduced and charges for sewerage services frozen for two years.

"We welcome the stability provided by the two-year agreement," Mr Court said.

Times, page 22

EIB ready to fund recovery in Europe

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING
CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of the European Investment Bank says his institution is ready to play its part in a recovery package for the European Community and provide part of the additional 50 billion euros (£40.6 billion) the European Commission wants to be spent on infrastructure projects next year.

Ernst-Günther Bröder also confirmed that his bank is in talks to lend up to £100 million for construction of the Jubilee Line extension. The loan is part of a scheme by the EIB to recover the £100 million lent to Olympia & York, the troubled property developer, for construction of the Docklands Light Railway.

Herr Bröder said, however, that it would refuse to lend to risky projects and would apply its standard strict criteria to any project promoted as part of the increased spending programme. "We are prepared to take part in any scheme which will allow us to appraise projects on an economic basis as we have done for many years. If they meet our standards we will be happy to contribute our share," he said.

Herr Bröder added that the bank would be happy to manage a new European Investment Fund and identify suitable projects to invest in.

Bank officials said, however, that the main problem was in trying to create large, economically viable infrastructure

■ The European Investment Bank is willing to spend to fight recession, including a £100 million loan towards building the Jubilee Line extension to London Docklands

projects to promote growth. The EIB already knows about all large projects in Europe.

Herr Bröder said: "I cannot stress the point enough that the projects which the bank is financing have to be economic. If you are pushing economic development it does not mean you have to invest in lousy projects. It is a challenge to find projects that will earn a proper return."

One solution would be to accelerate existing projects to increase employment and spending. Herr Bröder said the Jubilee Line extension was a prime example of a project that could be speeded up.

The EIB, in which the British government holds a 19.1 per cent stake, has massive resources it could contribute to a capital spending programme. In theory, it could lend more than 70 billion euros before its balance sheet reached the international ally agreed ceiling of 144 billion euros. Under existing plans, the bank is expected to reach that ceiling in 1995, but the Maastricht treaty states that the bank's capital resources should be increased further to allow it to invest in projects that encourage European unity.

The EIB expects to lend 17 billion euros this year, up from 15.3 billion euros in 1991. In

Britain its lending is forecast to rise 22 per cent to £1.8 billion. Almost two thirds of the lending in Britain is to the private sector. This includes £200 million to the Independent Barking Power Station in East London and £485 million to projects run by the privatised water companies.

In general, the EIB insists on first class security on its loans, which allows it to raise funds on the international bond markets with an AAA credit rating.

The £100 million the EIB lent to O&Y to finance building the Docklands Light Railway threatens to be the first bad debt in its 34-year history. The bank is trying to recover some of the money from O&Y's assets in Canada, since the loan was guaranteed by the parent company.

The EIB refused to reveal whether it plans to make a provision against the loan at the end of the year, but hopes that its scheme to finance the Jubilee Line extension will allow it to recover all its funds in the long-term. Herr Bröder said: "We are confident that Canary Wharf will turn out to be viable in the long-term provided the Jubilee Line is built."

The bank said £100 million was the maximum it would lend to the Jubilee Line.

Germans refuse to ease policy

By OUR ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank stood firm on interest rates, despite the continued threat of currency market tension that could destroy the exchange-rate mechanism and a call from Jürgen Möllemann, the German economics minister, for urgent monetary easing.

Herr Möllemann, addressing the German parliament shortly before the Bundesbank council session, said, however, that the central bank could hardly lower interest rates unless there was a reduction in the public sector deficit and pay moderation.

Michel Sapin, the French finance minister, pledged to defend the franc against speculators. He said France was determined to "preserve the stability of our currency in close co-operation with our German friends."

With American markets shut for Thanksgiving, and Ireland counting the results of Wednesday's general election, the foreign exchanges were subdued. Strong pressure on ERM currencies is likely to re-emerge on Monday.

The punt, considered the prime candidate for devaluation, held above its floor of DM2.6190 after the Irish central bank raised overnight interest rates to 100 per cent. The franc recovered to about 3.39 to the mark, well clear of its lower limit. Avinash Persaud, analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said that yesterday was the lull before the storm, with the ERM "still on the brink of a disaster."

Meanwhile, in London, the FT-SE 100 index closed at an all-time high, up 32.2 points to 2,741.8.

Stock market, page 24

Rate cuts fail to lessen gloom in manufacturing, says CBI

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MANUFACTURING industry is at its gloomiest about the prospects for output since the spring of 1991, despite the sharp cut in borrowing costs and the more competitive pound, according to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

The CBI's monthly survey of industrial trends, conducted between October 27 and November 11, before the one-point cut in base rates and investment-boosting measures announced in the Autumn Statement, showed that total orders had picked up slightly, but that export orders, the bright spot of surveys earlier this year, had fallen back.

CBI economists expect manufacturing output to fall

again this quarter and in the first quarter next year, before starting to expand in the second quarter. In its quarterly economic forecast, published today with the monthly trends survey, the CBI expects the economy overall to resume growth gradually in the first half of 1993, but achieve only 0.7 per cent growth for the full year, slightly below the 1 per cent in the Autumn Statement, will fall to 6 per cent in the first quarter next year, rising to 6.5 per cent in the second half of 1994. This profile is seen as consistent with the Treasury target of 1-4 per cent underlying inflation for the life of this Parliament.

Annual retail price inflation is forecast to slow from 3.4 per cent this quarter to 3 per cent in the final quarter next year—below Treasury expectations.

take effect. For this year, a contraction of 0.9 per cent is predicted, in line with the Treasury view.

Working on the assumption of no significant German easing until the second half of 1993, the CBI predicts that British base rates, lowered to 7 per cent in the Autumn Statement, will fall to 6 per cent in the first quarter next year, rising to 6.5 per cent in the second half of 1994. This profile is seen as consistent with the Treasury target of 1-4 per cent underlying inflation for the life of this Parliament.

Annual retail price inflation is forecast to slow from 3.4 per cent this quarter to 3 per cent in the final quarter next year—below Treasury expectations.

Good for Beattie but not for Mercury

By JON ASHWORTH

THE David and Goliath-like struggle between British Telecom and Mercury Communications took a new twist yesterday when BT announced it had won a contract to install up to 1,100 payphones in UK post offices.

The news may delight Beattie as she queues for her stamps but has predictably incensed Mercury, which has spent millions of pounds on a rival payphone network. The company has spent £1.7 billion on its UK services since it was formed ten years ago.

As a result of the deal, 200 Mercury payphones in post offices are to be ripped out to make way for two types of BT model. And just to rub salt in the wound, many of the replacements are made by GPT



Paytelco, which makes Mercury's coinless rival.

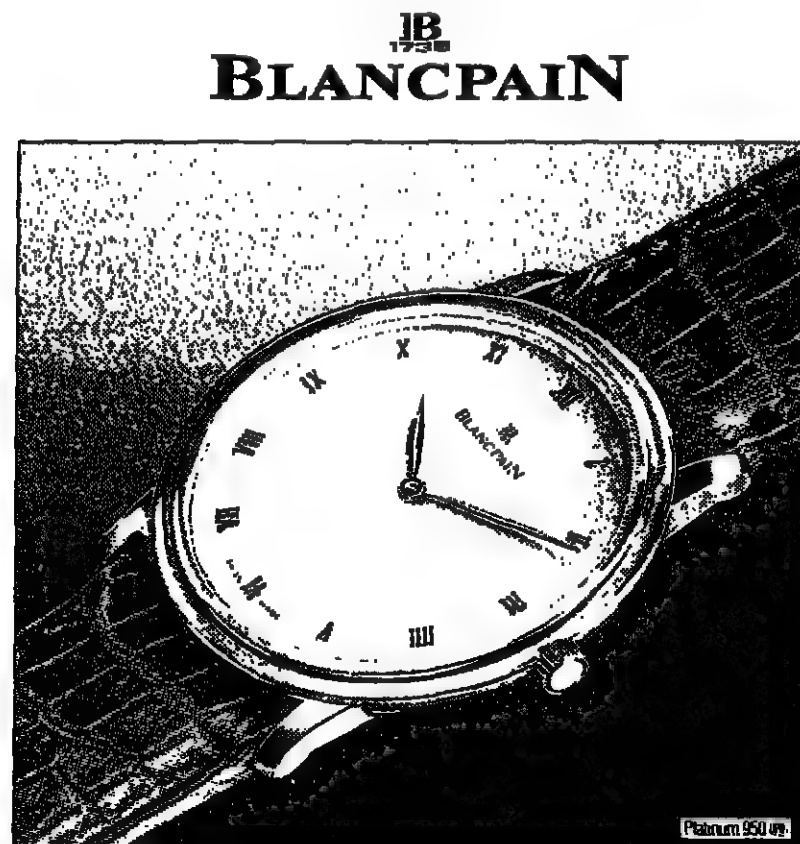
In so many words, the Post Office has admitted it made a mistake in choosing Mercury's art deco payphones for its branches. The contract to supply the phones was put out to tender towards the end of 1990 and Mercury came up

with the most attractive deal. Two years later, with 600 Mercury payphones installed, it dawned on the Post Office that its customers wanted phones that could take coins as well as cards. Mercury, which has stuck to its cards-or-nothing formula, could not compete, and only BT was offered the contract.

Although BT and the Post Office used to be under one roof—the pre-privatisation GPO—the Post Office said the decision to choose BT was on commercial grounds. A spokesman said: "This is purely a commercial decision aimed at providing a better service for our customers. We do keep a very close ear to what our customers are telling us and there is clearly a large number of people who still prefer coins." Mercury

was trying to get away from the image of the battered old public telephone box when it unveiled its first payphones on Waterloo station in July 1988. It claimed the absence of coins would deter vandals and wheeled out Lord Young of Graffham, then trade secretary, to make the inaugural call.

While clearly miffed at the latest turn of events, Mercury remains upbeat. Some 400 payphones will remain in post offices. It is spending £2 million on an advertising campaign to attract residential users and claims to be adding 25,000 customers a month. It has even persuaded London Underground to put a subliminal message on the back of its tickets, reminding travellers that Mercury payphones take credit cards... but not coins.



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مكتبة الأصيل

TEMPUS

BPB tightens its belt at end of price war

BPB is to be commended on its decision to cut the interim dividend to levels at which payment is covered, even if it cost the company an 8 per cent fall in the share price yesterday. But the rebasing of the dividend speaks volumes about prospects for the markets in which the group operates, and it is hard to argue that the fall is overdue.

BPB is nearing the end of a bruising — and with the benefit of hindsight unnecessary — price war. Prices of its main product, plasterboard, are on the up again after five years of decline, but as Alan Turner, the chairman, concedes, the future is all about volume, and the cut dividend suggests that in the company's view any increases are likely to be limited.

This is realistic thinking. While plasterboard will continue to gain its share of the building market, that market is still shrinking.

Meanwhile, BPB has further problems with its paper and packaging products, also tied to economic trends, where, despite rising volumes, a 5 per cent first half fall in average prices played havoc with margins.

Pre-tax profits were up 15 per cent to £27.5 million, but an increased tax charge wiped out the increase. A dividend of 2.7p is easily covered by earnings of 3.1p, unlike last year's 4p payment against earnings of 3.9p.

BPB shares have outperformed the market by 37 per cent this year. A full-year payment of 7.6p puts the

shares on a yield of less than 6 per cent, while pre-tax profits of £50 million suggest a forward multiple of 26.

There are better recovery prospects in the sector.

Water groups

THE water companies' interim dividend season continues to show increases well above the rate of inflation, with Welsh Water lifting its payment by 9.4 per cent to 7.8p a share, and South West Water raising its payout by 9.9 per cent to 7.8p a share.

SWW's increase is partly a catch up from a year ago when the group was making its case with the regulators, but both groups tell investors what they want to hear at a time of falling interest rates — that is, despite the need to fund vast capital expenditure programmes, that dividend increases will remain progressive and real.

Welsh Water's pre-tax profits of £75.3 million (£74.1 million) and operating profits that were 9.3 per cent ahead at £67 million, and profits at SWW of £48.9 million (£47.1 million), after operating profits that jumped from £33.3 million to £41.6 million, were generally in line with expectations.

While there was some benefit from increased water charges, both achieved higher efficiencies, though the impact of the recession on industry saw metered sales lower in real terms. Meanwhile, capital investment programmes go on. Welsh

Water's operating losses from non-regulated activities, which include a hotel leisure chain, were trimmed from £2.8 million to a £1.4 million. At SWW, a new main board director has been appointed to look out for non-regulated opportunities.

The recession will have its impact, though Welsh Water should be capable of turning in year-end pre-tax profits of £140 million (£138.2 million),



Shrinking world: Alan Turner, chairman of BPB, says the future is all about volumes

which would support a total dividend of 23.4p a share (£1.4p) and give a 5.9 per cent yield on yesterday's share price of 52p.

SWW's profits could challenge the £94 million level (after £90 million last time), out of which the dividend could rise from last year's 21.7p to, say, 23.5p a share, to yield 6.3 per cent at 49p.

On current yield profiles, hold.

Northern Foods

ONLY in truly depressed times could a food manufacturer seek comfort in lower interest rates and rationalisation benefits.

But Northern Foods is facing what Christopher Haskins, its chairman, describes as the first recession since the

thirties to have hit the food trade. Northern managed to raise pre-tax profits 24 per cent to £68.4 million in the half year to end-September. But the dilutive effects of the £227 million rights issue made to buy Express Dairy and Eden Vale from Grand Metropolitan has left earnings up 3 per cent at 8.92p. These, however, easily cover a 5 per cent improvement in the dividend to 3.4p a share.

Stripping out the effects of the GrandMet acquisitions, Northern says its sales grew an underlying 7 per cent and that operating profits grew an underlying 8 per cent. Northern reported sales up 48 per cent to £969.9 million and operating profits up 41 per cent to £81.2 million.

Debits rose from £199 million to £243 million, taking gearing up from 72 to 82 per cent although the group expects to be cash-generative from December. The first half cash outflow was £44 million. Northern's full-year performance hinges on Christmas and how quickly food prices recover in the New Year.

Brokers expect £155 million before tax for the full year, a figure that could shrink a little if January, February and March turn out to be too flat. At this level of profit, Northern will earn 20.1p a share, putting it on an earnings multiple of 14 at yesterday's share price of 280p, down 7p. A dividend up 5 per cent to 8.3p would give a yield of almost 4 per cent. Hold for further rationalisation benefits.

Seton seeks £13m issue to fund Cupal purchase

SETON Healthcare, the health products and sports equipment group, has launched a £13.1 million rights issue to fund the proposed £8.2 million acquisition of Cupal, a pharmaceuticals manufacturer and distributor based in Blackburn, Lancashire. The group has also entered into licensing and manufacturing agreements for the Betadine antiseptic range in the UK and Eire. Seton is paying £2 million for know-how, plant and machinery. The proposals will be put to the vote at an extraordinary meeting on December 14. The shares fell 19p to 273p before recovering to 278p. Seton made pre-tax profits of £2.1 million (£1.5 million) in the six months to end-August on turnover of £17.8 million (£17.5 million). Fully diluted earnings per share were 6.1p (4.7p). There is an interim dividend of 1.7p (1.5p) a share. The board expects to recommend a final dividend of 4.1p a share, for a total 5.8p.

Dan-Air challenge fails

VIRGIN Atlantic and the owners of British Midland have lost a renewed bid to challenge the legality of British Airways' takeover of Dan-Air. They asked the Court of Appeal to reverse a High Court ruling that they did not have an "arguable case". But Lord Justice Neill, sitting with Lords Justices Beldam and Kennedy, refused and blocked their application for judicial review of the government decision not to refer the takeover to the monopolies commission. They were also prevented from seeking court orders against the director-general of Fair Trading who they alleged failed in his duty to recommend the referral to Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary. The court will give its reasons next week.

Gibbs Mew flat

GIBBS Mew, the Salisbury brewer responsible for the high octane Bishop's Tipton brand, suffered from heavy provisions against outstanding loans and the costs of mounting a defence against the defeated offer from New Zealand's Brieries Investments in the half year to September 26. Pre-tax profits were £377,000 (£503,000) after a £262,000 loan provision. A further £129,000 of defence costs were carried below the line. The interim dividend is held at 3p. Peter Gibbs, the chairman, said most of the group's pubs continued to find trading conditions depressed. The brewery division's overall increase in trading profits had been achieved mainly by increases in free trade volumes.

Tomkinsons slips 19%

THE "most difficult trading conditions since the Thirties" depressed pre-tax profits at Tomkinsons, the Worcestershire carpet maker, by almost 19 per cent to £1.04 million for the year to October 3. Sales fell from £21.2 million to £19.6 million, despite overseas exports rising 13.5 per cent during the period. The final dividend was unchanged at 8p a share, for a total 11p for the year. Earnings per share dropped from 13.9p to 10.3p. Lowry Maclean, chairman, said the group was still predominantly a supplier to the residential retail market and was hit by the slump in the housing market.

Scantronic advances

SCANTRONIC, the alarms and signalling products company, increased pre-tax profits 38 per cent to £1.5 million in the six months to end-September. Turnover rose 10 per cent to £16.5 million and earnings per share climbed from 1.01p to 1.84p. The interim dividend stays at 0.79p. Profits were enhanced by cost cutting and reorganisation of the American business, which made a loss of £15,000. Chris Brooks, chairman, said he hoped the US operation would be in profit by year-end. Mike Kennedy becomes president and chief operating officer of the American division.

Southnews sells titles

SOUTHNEWS, based at Ruislip, Middlesex, has sold the Sussex County Press, publisher of the *Worthing Guardian*, a free weekly, and the *Sussex Portobello*, a weekly magazine. Johnston Press, which owns the *West Sussex County Times*, is paying £1.4 million. Southnews says the sale of its Worthing operation marks the end of its programme to dispose of titles on the fringe of its publishing area. Pre-tax profits at Southnews rose to £651,000 in the six months to September 26 from £494,000. The interim dividend is raised to 0.7p from 0.5p. Earnings per share rose to 2.84p from 2.13p.

GEI doubles profit

PROFITS doubled at GEI, the machinery maker, as the strong performance of 1991 spilled over into the six months to September. Pre-tax profits just topped £1 million, against £500,000 in the previous first half. The dividend is held at 2.47p. The shares gained 2p to 68p. Michael Blackburn, chairman, said: "Packaging machinery had an outstanding year in 1991 and this level of performance was maintained. Processing machinery substantially increased its profits and the losses from special steels have been reduced." But he gave warning that trading conditions remained difficult.

Stoddard Sekers halves

THE demand for consumer durables continues to worsen and there is no sign of a recovery in confidence, says Stoddard Sekers, the Scottish carpet and fabric company. While turnover for the six months to September rose to £25.5 million from £22.2 million last time, the figures include four months' contribution from BMK, acquired in May. Pre-tax profit was halved, from £1 million to £430,000. Although losses have been stemmed at BMK, other divisions saw operating profits fall while finance charges rose from £190,000 to £460,000. Gearing is 43 per cent. The interim dividend is held at 0.75p.

Morland dented by bid costs

By MARTIN WALLER

HEAVY costs from the defence against this summer's £104 million hostile bid from Greene King dented attributable profits from Morland, the Thames Valley brewer, despite the achievement of profit forecasts made during the bid.

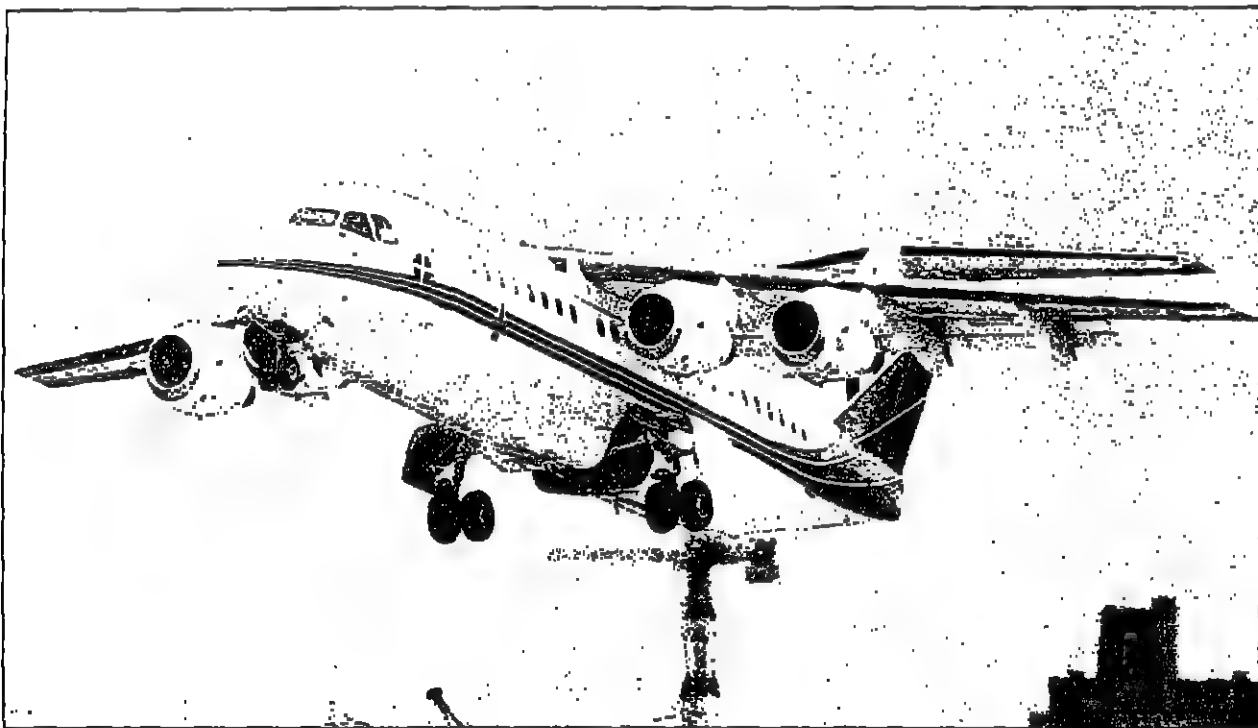
Pre-tax profits rose from £5.93 million to £7.62 million in the year to end-September, and the total dividend is increased to 8.4p from 7.1p as forecast, by means of a final payment of 5.98p.

Sir Humphrey Pridaux, chairman, said the forecasts had been achieved during "an extraordinary year for the company" despite the very poor trading conditions in the final three months, when Morland and the rest of the brewing industry was beset by bad weather and the intensifying economic gloom.

Volumes of Old Speckled Hen, Morland's premium brand and its first to be sold in cans, more than doubled over the year, even before the effect of a deal with Courage, attacked by Greene King during the bid, which will see Courage selling 5,000 barrels of the brand.

The cost of the bid defence is carried within an extraordinary item of £2.03 million and leaves profits attributable to shareholders 9.6 per cent lower at £3.51 million. Greene King retains a 29 per cent holding in Morland.

BAe wins order for five 146 jets



Up and away: the 146 regional jetliner which caused British Aerospace huge losses earlier this year

A £92 million order to British Aerospace for five new versions of BAe 146 regional jets, provides a boost for an aircraft that was responsible for a big slice of the recent profit slump at British Aerospace (Derek Harris writes).

But it is not expected to have any effect on the radical measures being taken by BAe to cope with its commercial aircraft problems.

The new order, for 85-seater regional jetliners (RJ85) versions of the 146, is from City Air Scandinavia which

operates a 146 fleet from London's City Airport to Swedish destinations. The new jets, an updated version announced last June, will fly the same routes. Delivery is scheduled for 1994-1995.

Two actions are being taken by BAe to tackle losses with the 146. The Hatfield, Hertfordshire, factory where the 146 is built, is due to close by the end of next year with the loss of nearly 3,000 jobs. An agreement in principle will also put the BAe regional aircraft business into a joint

venture with the Taiwan Aerospace Corporation. Detailed talks are still proceeding but it is hoped the new joint company will build the four-engine 146 and its successors which may include a two-engine version.

Some Taiwan manufacture is envisaged while UK production would move to Woodford, Cheshire. BAe has set aside £1 billion for the restructuring of its regional aircraft business.

The 146 programme was first launched in the early

1970s since when a total of just over 200 had been sold until this latest contract. Production had been about 30 a year but this year only 24 are likely to be built.

The five jets make a total of 45 146 aircraft ordered in the past 12 months. This is claimed to be a 53 per cent share of the 70-120 seat airliner market. In September BAe announced a £129 million interim loss, pushed into the red by commercial aircraft division losses which plunged from £32 million to £286 million at half time.

Distiller hit by discounts

By DEREK HARRIS

TOUGH times for whisky sales worldwide have brought a profits plunge for Macdonald Martin Distilleries, of Leith, producers of Glenmorangie single malt Scotch. Nor is there much sign of improvement for the second half.

Interim pre-tax profits at £2.69 million were down 42 per cent against the same period the year before. The company, whose brands also include Glen Moray, saw turnover fall 23 per cent to £11.67 million. Interim dividends on the two classes of ordinary shares were nevertheless unchanged — 2.2p on each of the "A" shares and 1.1p on the "B".

Volume sales of Glenmorangie stayed in line with last year but that was clearly bought out by increased promotional investment in the brand and discounting to match competitors as prices were cut in depressed markets. David Macdonald, the chairman, blamed difficult trading conditions for the whisky industry on world recession, severe price discounting in blended whisky, a downturn in single malt sales in the United Kingdom market and the impact of a weak American dollar.

Mr Macdonald said the main cause both of the downturn in profitability and turnover was reduced bulk shipments to world markets. Sales in America and Australia were particularly hit as depressed trading and price discounting took their toll.

He had little cheer for second half prospects. These were likely to be still influenced by price discounting and the absence of consumer confidence, he said.

The company would seek all profit improvement it could in a marketplace of "general uncertainty", he added.

Packer pays £104m for bank stake

FROM BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

KERRY Packer, Australia's richest man, has taken a strategic 8 per cent stake in one of the country's top four banks. He has spent just over A\$230 million (£104 million) for 8.27 per cent of Westpac Banking Corp. Under present banking laws he can take a maximum 10 per cent.

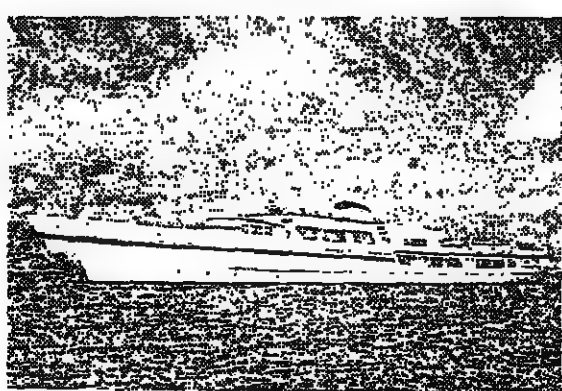
There are suggestions he will form an alliance with the nation's biggest institutional investor, the AMP Society, which has 15 per cent under a special dispensation. Mr Packer is expected to seek a similar waiver to go to 15 per cent.

The bank has been beset by problems this year, including a large shortfall in its A\$1.2 billion rights issue, the resignation of five directors, including the chairman, and a loss of A\$1.56 billion for the year to September 30.

Mr Packer is believed to have made A\$30 million on his investment. The shares closed at A\$2.99 from a nine-year low of A\$2.50 on November 11, having been at A\$4.59 at the beginning of the year.

Mr Packer's shares were bought through a subsidiary of his Consolidated Press Holdings.

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Resisting the recession

Interim Report

- Tangible benefits now emerging from structural change
- Increase in profit before tax
- Maintained interim dividend
- Lower gearing gives room for future investment

"The satisfactory start to the year gives encouragement that our development strategy is well founded. Powell Duffryn has withstood the worst effects of the recession thus far and the board is confident the Group will continue to do so."

David Hubbard

Results for the half year ended 30 September

	1992	1991
Profit before taxation	£24.3m	£25.9m
Earnings per share	8.1p	8.7p
Dividends per share	6.6p	6.6p
Net gearing	31%	30%



POWELL DUFFRYN

FUEL DISTRIBUTION · SHIPPING AND STORAGE · ENGINEERING

OECD urges reform as bubble bursts for Japan's economy

By Wolfgang Münchau

JAPAN'S "bubble economy" has burst and the effects will be "more severe than projected", according to the latest survey by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD urged Japan to introduce structural reform, but even on a pessimistic scenario, Japan will "remain a substantial net supplier of capital to the world". The growth of its productive potential, at more than 3.5 per cent, will still remain over 1 per cent higher than elsewhere in the western world.

But Japan's legendary economic miracle is over. The OECD said Japan was facing a structural crisis, from which it can emerge successfully only if it encompasses substantial microeconomic reform. The OECD recommended a la IMF directives for eastern European economies, that Ja-

Japan's economic miracle is over, according to the OECD. Competition is needed in wholesaling and retailing, while restraints in banking and farming must go

pan introduce an effective competition policy, especially in wholesaling and retailing, remove restraints on banking and insurance, improve its agricultural system and embark upon land reform.

The report said "the collapse of the 'bubble economy' has strengthened the need both for further liberalisation and supervision to improve the efficiency of the financial system of land utilisation... The deflationary effects of bursting the asset price 'bubble' could turn out to be more severe than projected".

Japanese growth slowed from a rate of 4.4 per cent in 1991 to an annualised 1.9 per cent in the first half of 1992,

while industrial production fell by 8 per cent in the August 1991-2 period.

"Because the boom was characterised by an excessive rise in land and share prices, by an over-expansion of bank lending and by record levels of investment, it has been in the real estate, financial and non-financial corporate sectors that the subsequent adjustment has been most marked."

The report notes that Japan is one of the few countries with a general budget surplus, and hence with the scope to engage in Keynesian-style pump-priming. But this has already happened to some degree, when the government decided on an early implementation of a public works programme and an additional public investment plan, amounting to about 1.8 per cent of gross domestic product. But "scope for further fiscal policy easing — through, for example, tax cuts — is severely limited. The constraining factor here is concern about the future fiscal demands which will arise from a rapidly ageing population".

Japan is urged to implement deregulation and improve competition policy to return to growth. The OECD notes that "extensive government regulations, covering agricultural trade, construction, and some sectors of the partially deregulated transport and communications sectors, continued to be a severe impediment to entry, raising prices of goods and services relative to those in other countries".

The second main problem are the "complexities of Japanese wholesaling and retailing channels", which have led to "barriers to entry in the distribution sector".

The stock market slump and bad loans hit profits at the big Japanese banks for the six months to September 30, despite higher operating income. The banks set aside loan loss provisions of ¥290.1 billion (£1.54 billion), more than double last year.

Officials of Japan's 11 biggest nationwide commercial banks and seven leading trust banks said profits would remain under pressure for the full year to March 31.

Profit figures released yesterday included a fall from ¥104 billion to ¥30 billion at Fuji. The recession also hit Hitachi, Toshiba and Mitsubishi Electric. Hitachi pre-tax profit plunged 52 per cent to ¥112.9 billion in the six months to September 30; Toshiba fell 41 per cent to ¥36.8 billion and Mitsubishi Electric dropped 67 per cent to ¥26.99 billion.

Comment, page 25

Nuclear Electric in Taiwan race

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

NUCLEAR Electric, the state-owned nuclear power company, is making a joint bid with Westinghouse of America to supply the design for a £3 billion atomic power station in Taiwan.

The reactor would be based on Nuclear Electric's Sizewell B pressurised water plant, which is being built in Suffolk. Nuclear Electric says a deal with the Taiwanese, for a plant twice the scale of Sizewell B, would result in £700 million of orders for British industry, and 25,000 man-years of work.

Nuclear Electric believes that Sizewell B, a modified Westinghouse design, will be one of the front runners in the international contest. Although plans for Sizewell B were drawn up before the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine, they incorporate many of the safety standards subsequently being adopted elsewhere.

According to Dr John Gittus of the British Nuclear Forum, the industry lobby group, when Sizewell B was proposed, Britain's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate refused to accept that the con-

crete reactor containment building around the reactor was sufficient safeguard against radioactive leaks.

The NII insisted on 38 additional safety features. It is the availability of these ready-engineered safeguards that Nuclear Electric hopes will make its design attractive to Taiwan. At least three rivals are said to be bidding to supply the plant, including ABB, the Swedish-Swiss group.

The design offered to the Taiwanese is a twin reactor, 2,400 megawatt plant identical to that which Nuclear Electric would like to build in Suffolk as Sizewell C. Proponents of nuclear power believe endorsement by Taiwan would strengthen their case.

Nuclear Electric says Sizewell B will generate power at 3p a unit, a price higher than that from existing coal plants or new gas plants, but competitive with the price of a new coal station.

However, the company conceded that the prediction was made on an expectation that the plant would achieve 85 per cent availability, a level regarded by many in the industry as extremely demanding.

AAH gains from less competition

By Our City Staff

AAH Holdings, Britain's largest wholesaler of pharmaceutical products, is still cashing in on the withdrawal of a big competitor.

Mediopharma, the Dutch pharmaceutical company, shut its British drug wholesale operations a year ago. The proposed sale of the British assets to AAH was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which ruled that the deal stifled competition in Scotland.

The company has since been cleared of the need to sell certain assets in Scotland. Reduced competition helped AAH lift pre-tax profits to £17.5 million (£15.8 million) in the six months to end September. Turnover rose to £660 million (£606 million) after acquisitions.

Earnings per share were 15.4p (15.2p) and an interim dividend of 5.8p (5.4p) will be paid.

Gardner issues warning

By Rodney Hobson

A PROFIT warning from DC Gardner, the headhunter, sent shares tumbling 9p to 28p before a partial recovery to 33p.

The news was accompanied by top-level changes, with Sir Kit McMahon, former chairman of Midland Bank, who joined the Gardner board this year, appointed chairman. Stephen Johnson, the existing chairman, who holds a similar position with Coutts Consultants, replaces Barrie Topley as chief executive.

The company said results for the second half of 1992 would be less than market expectations and well below those announced on July 27 for the first half.

Gardner made profits of the £930,000 in the six months to June. At that stage, it still expected the revival of business confidence following the general election to continue.

Powell Duffryn shares reflect improved profit

By Jon Ashworth

SHARES in Powell Duffryn rose 30p to 419p yesterday, as the distribution, storage and specialist engineering group revealed a 35 per cent rise in first-half profits.

Pre-tax profits rose from £6.9 million to £9.3 million in the six months to end-September, despite growing trading losses in some divisions. The company's main markets, the transport and energy sectors, have shown no signs of improvement, and 500 jobs have been lost in the past six months. A further 200 redundancies are planned.

Turnover declined to £331 million (£355 million). Trading profits from subsidiaries dipped to £6.3 million (£8 million) but a reduced interest charge and improved return on

profit from associated undertakings more than compensated. Earnings per share were 9.1p (6.7p). The interim dividend has been pegged at 6.6p.

Powell Duffryn has placed great importance on its dividend since escaping a £170 million hostile bid from Hanson in 1985. A pledge to continue paying high dividends formed a key part of the defence.

The reduction in interest charges is largely due to the proceeds received from the sale of a quarries division for £30 million in September 1991, and the £19 million raised through the restructuring of the shipping fleet in April. The shares settled back after their earlier gains to close



Proof is in the pudding: Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern, where interim profits were 24% higher

Northern Foods sounds prices alarm

By George Sivell

CHRISTOPHER Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, says that the devaluation of the green pound will trigger food price rises of up to 8 per cent next year, across a wide range of products.

The European Commission last week approved a devaluation of 7 per cent in the green pound, in which farm prices are designated. Mr Haskins said this would have a substantial impact on shelf prices in Britain because the UK was a huge importer of processed food, and only 70 per cent self-sufficient.

He predicted price rises would cover products ranging from biscuits and cakes to dairy produce and cereals. "It

will affect anything that has an EC commodity element in it."

His views were backed by City food analysts who said sugar prices had gone up 17 per cent and a loaf could rise 7 per cent. Imported oil and cocoa would go up. Even the depressed meat price had stopped falling.

Pre-tax profits at Northern Foods rose 24 per cent to £68.4 million in the six months to end-September. Earnings rose only 3 per cent to 8.92p a share because of the effects of the £227 million rights issue made to acquire Express Dairy's liquid milk business and Eden Vale, the dairy products group, from GrandMet last November.

The dividend rises 5 per cent to 3.4p. The shares fell 7p to 280p yesterday.

About 3,000 jobs are going this year and next. Of these 1,000 are at Express Dairy and Eden Vale, where Mr Haskins said Northern Foods had found "grotesque over-manning". Of the 3,000 redundancies, 2,000 have still to be declared but 1,000 will arise from franchising London milk rounds.

Also affected by the job cuts is the meat division, where profits fell in the half-year from £12.2 million to £11.4 million. Mr Haskins said the group wanted to reduce its meat processing plants from ten to five. Dairy profits rose from

£25.9 million to £39.7 million, although stripping out the acquisitions the rise was said to be more like 9 per cent. Convenience foods rose from £12 million to £21.5 million but again, stripping out acquisitions, the rise was less than 15 per cent. Groceries rose from £7.6 million to £8.6 million.

Mr Haskins said he welcomed the government's proposals to wind up the Milk Marketing Board. He said the company was campaigning for a method that saw a free market in milk which at the same time recognised the needs of the small producers.

Tempos, page 22

CIS oil states apply to join Opec

FROM REUTERS IN VIENNA

RUSSIA and Kazakhstan, the former Soviet Union's two biggest oil producers, have enquired about joining the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, a senior Opec delegate said.

If they join, it could eventually tilt the power balance within Opec while placing the group in control of more than 50 per cent of all world oil. Saudi Arabian leverage in Opec might fall.

The delegate was speaking after a meeting that was part of the regular Opec conference, now in session. One of the main items on the agenda was a threat by Ecuador to leave Opec. A tiny producer, it says it cannot afford the fees and does not like being bound to a quota on its output.

The delegate said Russia and Kazakhstan had written to Dr Subroto of Indonesia, the secretary-general of Opec, asking what their obligations would be if they joined. The ministers deferred a decision and the issue apparently has provoked differing views.

Iran, the Saudis' rival in Opec, suggested the two countries be invited to the next two meetings as observers. But Saudi Arabia "cautioned on this", the delegate said.

It proposed Dr Subroto should instead continue to maintain a dialogue with the two countries. Earlier Dr Subroto said the question of Ecuador's membership had not yet been decided but would be discussed further in a closed session.

There are questions among smaller members such as Ecuador about the wisdom of being at oil's top table, where decisions on price and policy tend to hang on the big Middle East producers. Russia is second after Saudi Arabia as a world producer, although its exports are much smaller. Kazakhstan hopes to become a leading producer.

Comment, page 25

NatWest predicts rate rise

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE finance director of National Westminster Bank predicts a rise in interest rates as early as next year in response to renewed inflationary pressure. The bank has taken advantage of the present low rates to launch a £200 million fixed-rate loan issue.

Richard Goetz said Britain's withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism and the rise in government borrowing would lead to higher inflation and interest rates, particularly when demand returns for borrowing from the private sector.

"We are looking further ahead than the next two quarters but we believe this will prove to have been a very attractive time to raise fixed-rate capital," he said.

The issue was fixed at £150 million yesterday by Salomon Brothers, the securities house, but was increased to £200 million by midday in response to demand from institutions. The notes are an innovative capital issue, which can convert into preference shares whenever the bank wants.

As loan notes, the cost of the interest payments can be deducted against tax. If the bank converts them to preference shares, it loses the tax efficiency but is allowed to include them in its core capital for regulatory purposes.

Billion-dollar Barbie is not just a pretty face

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK



Barbie: profitable poseur

SHE looks stunning in lamé, has long, flowing hair, has not aged a wrinkle in more than three decades and this year will become the world's first billion-dollar doll.

Barbie, the 11½ inches tall teenage fashion model ushered in a year before the swinging sixties, is expected to raise \$1 billion for Mattel, her maker, this year. In the 33 years since Barbie first hit the scene, she has acquired 66 additional family, friends and pets. She had to wait two years before her special

friend, Ken, came along, but they've been together now longer than most American couples. The two have never married, although Barbie's wedding dress is the most popular outfit and more than 5 million have been sold.

According to Mattel, 100 million yards of fabric have gone into making the family fashions: Barbie has more shoes than Imelda Marcos (1 billion); more outfits than any model (120 a year at the last count); more image changes than Madonna (500 so far)

and more facelifts than most Hollywood stars.

The doll is sold in 100 countries. Typical children in America, Italy and France own seven Barbies; Germany is lagging with five and there are no statistics for Britain. Mattel's most important market outside America. Since 1980, 25 national costume dolls have been created. Her first black friend was introduced in 1968 and was followed by other ethnic playmates.

However, she had to wait

five years before she could bend at the knees, a further three before being able to twist at the waist and even longer before she could boast a pivotal shoulder.

Through it all, she has never lost her charm. In the four years to 1991, sales doubled to \$940 million and Mattel says Barbie sales will hit \$1 billion this year. The latest creation, Totally Hair Barbie, with tresses down to her shoes, is expected to pull in \$100 million on its own. What a doll.

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JERSEY EUROPEAN

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Dart pegs payout as profits fall

DART Group, the air freighter, saw interim profits slide to £95,000 in the half year to September from £1.9 million previously. The interim dividend remains 1.3p.

Philip Meeson, chairman, said: "We have not seen any uplift in trading in the second half. These results mask the very hard work that has gone on throughout the group, which is trading in an extremely harsh economic climate. We have had to cut back in some areas to ensure our competitiveness, but our already tight ship has meant relatively few redundancies."

Concentric shares

Concentric, the engineering designer, is to issue one free share for every one held after almost doubling pre-tax profits in the year to September from £4.2 million. The final dividend is held at 7.63p, making 11.17p.

Castings slips

Customers have fallen away since August at Castings, the foundry operator. Business had picked up before the general election. Castings made interim pre-tax profit of £1.59 million in the six months to September, against £1.7 million last time. The interim dividend remains 1.3p.

Indonesian deal

The Simon Engineering offshoot, ULG Consultants, and its Indonesian partner, Inter-ys, have signed a \$4.9 million contract with Indonesia's government to develop computer technology for land resource evaluation and planning.

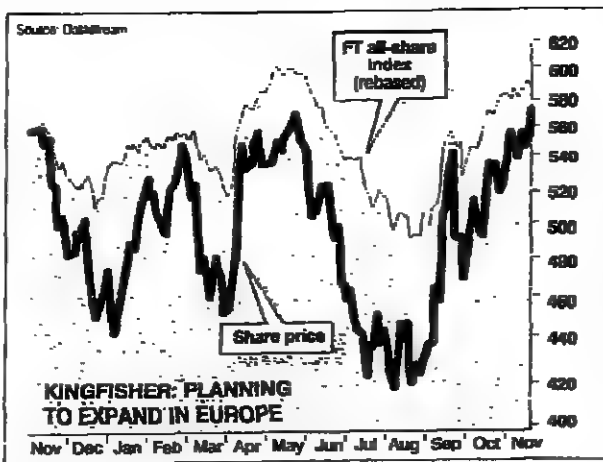
Dividend rises

Brockhampton Holdings, the parent of Portsmouth Water, has lifted its interim dividend from 1.65p to 2.2p for the six months to September after pre-tax profits rose from £1.2 million to £1.9 million. The performance should be repeated in the second half, the company says.

Protein buys

Protein has acquired DA Baldwin for £300,000. Baldwin, based in the West Midlands, sells and services water softeners and other water treatment plant.

US recovery hopes prompt record



KINGFISHER: PLANNING TO EXPAND IN EUROPE

Comet and B&Q stores group, jumped 12p to 573p on talk that it is considering paying £250 million for a near-30 per cent in Castorama, the DIY chain, held by Carrefour. Carrefour is said to be in talks with a number of buyers.

Allied-Lyons fell 15p to 643p on suggestions that James Capel, the stockbroker, had downgraded its profit forecast for the current year by £20 million to £285 million because of the recession. There was also talk that Cazenove,

the company's broker, was looking to reduce its numbers, although it is believed to have privately denied this to several of the bigger fund managers. Allied-Lyons is due to unveil interim figures on Tuesday showing pre-tax profits up from £277 million to £284 million.

The rest of the drinks companies enjoyed useful gains, with Bass 5p better at 588p. Scottish & Newcastle 13p at 429p, Whitbread A 4p at 454p, and Guinness 4p at

524p. Northern Foods, the manufacturer and distributor, saw an early lead wiped out to finish 8p cheaper at 279p after the profit-takers moved in. Half-year figures showed pre-tax profits up from £55.2 million to £68.4 million, with the group claiming progress in three out of its four divisions.

Christopher Haskins, the chairman, is expecting the benefits of an efficiency programme and the merger of Eden Vale and Express Dairies to filter through in 1993-4. Asda, the troubled supermarket chain, remains a strong recovery play with some institutions.

The price hardened 2½p to 52½p as more than 25 million shares changed hands. Asda has been creeping steadily higher in recent weeks. British Aerospace firmed 6p to 129p on news that it had been awarded a £90 million contract to supply City Air Scandinavia with five of its 80-seat RJ85 aircraft. It takes the total order book for the RJ85 to 33. Earlier this year, Bae was forced to axe thousands of jobs as part of a cost-cutting

operation. Evode, the coatings group that makes Evostik glue, firmed 1p to 91p after Wassall published its offer document. Wassall has criticised Evode's "lacklustre" trading performance and has given warning that the company may have to cut its dividend. Evode has already rejected the £93 million offer. Wassall was unchanged at 195p.

First-time dealings in Critchley, the manufacturer of cable accessories and identification systems, got off to a confident start. The shares, placed by Warburg Securities, the stockbroker, at 220p opened at 231p and touched 240p, before closing at 237p, a premium of 6p. BPB Industries, Britain's biggest supplier of plasterboard, fell 18p to 172p after the decision to cut the dividend about 30 per cent despite a rise in half-year pre-tax profits from £24 million to £27.5 million. The group blamed the reduced payout on the uncertain outlook for business prospects.

MICHAEL CLARK

BRITISH FUNDS

ATTEMPTS by the gilt market to recover some of Wednesday's losses suffered a setback in late trading as selling on the futures market dragged prices lower.

Traders on the futures market have been shadowing events on European bond markets where prices have been depressed by the French threat to veto the Gatt deal.

Fund managers spent much time on the sidelines, with demand further suppressed by Wall Street's closure for Thanksgiving Day. The long gilt market time around par in thin trading before losing ground to end 12 ticks lower at 99.25/32. A total of 22,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, prices fared little better. At the shorter end, Treasury 13½ per cent 1997 lost £4 to £1207½, while at the long end, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 was 10 ticks off at £1014.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change
SHORTS under \$5				
100	99	Fund 0% 1992	99	0.01
100	99	Trust 8% 1992	100	0.02
101	99	Trust 10% 1992	101	0.01
101	100	Trust 12% 1992	101	0.01
102	100	Trust 14% 1992	102	0.02
102	100	Trust 16% 1992	102	0.02
103	100	Trust 18% 1992	103	0.03
103	100	Trust 20% 1992	103	0.03
104	100	Trust 22% 1992	104	0.04
105	100	Trust 24% 1992	105	0.05
105	100	Trust 26% 1992	105	0.05
106	100	Trust 28% 1992	106	0.06
106	100	Trust 30% 1992	106	0.06
107	100	Trust 32% 1992	107	0.07
107	100	Trust 34% 1992	107	0.07
108	100	Trust 36% 1992	108	0.08
108	100	Trust 38% 1992	108	0.08
109	100	Trust 40% 1992	109	0.09
109	100	Trust 42% 1992	109	0.09
110	100	Trust 44% 1992	110	0.10
110	100	Trust 46% 1992	110	0.10
111	100	Trust 48% 1992	111	0.11
111	100	Trust 50% 1992	111	0.11
112	100	Trust 52% 1992	112	0.12
112	100	Trust 54% 1992	112	0.12
113	100	Trust 56% 1992	113	0.13
113	100	Trust 58% 1992	113	0.13
114	100	Trust 60% 1992	114	0.14
114	100	Trust 62% 1992	114	0.14
115	100	Trust 64% 1992	115	0.15
115	100	Trust 66% 1992	115	0.15
116	100	Trust 68% 1992	116	0.16
116	100	Trust 70% 1992	116	0.16
117	100	Trust 72% 1992	117	0.17
117	100	Trust 74% 1992	117	0.17
118	100	Trust 76% 1992	118	0.18
118	100	Trust 78% 1992	118	0.18
119	100	Trust 80% 1992	119	0.19
119	100	Trust 82% 1992	119	0.19
120	100	Trust 84% 1992	120	0.20
120	100	Trust 86% 1992	120	0.20
121	100	Trust 88% 1992	121	0.21
121	100	Trust 90% 1992	121	0.21
122	100	Trust 92% 1992	122	0.22
122	100	Trust 94% 1992	122	0.22
123	100	Trust 96% 1992	123	0.23
123	100	Trust 98% 1992	123	0.23
124	100	Trust 100% 1992	124	0.24

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

107 ¹ / ₂	107 ¹ / ₂	Trust 8 ¹ / ₂ % 1997	105 ¹ / ₂
131 ¹ / ₂	117 ¹ / ₂	Each 15% 1997	120 ¹ / ₂
99 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Trust 6 ¹ / ₂ % 1995-98	97 ¹ / ₂
111 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Each 6 ¹ / ₂ % 1999	109 ¹ / ₂
121 ¹ / ₂	105 ¹ / ₂	Each 12% 1996	116 ¹ / ₂
135 ¹ / ₂	123 ¹ / ₂	Trust 15 ¹ / ₂ % 1998	135
111 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Trust 6 ¹ / ₂ % 1996	108 ¹ / ₂
119 ¹ / ₂	107 ¹ / ₂	Conv 10% 1996	112 ¹ / ₂
116 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂	Trust 10% 1999	113 ¹ / ₂
123 ¹ / ₂	109 ¹ / ₂	Each 12 ¹ / ₂ % 1999	120 ¹ / ₂
109 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Conv 6% 2000	106 ¹ / ₂
128 ¹ / ₂	114 ¹ / ₂	Trust 13% 2000	125 ¹ / ₂
113 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Trust 10% 2001	110 ¹ / ₂
128 ¹ / ₂	115 ¹ / ₂	Trust 14% 1999-01	130 ¹ / ₂

Steady buying helps extend Nikkei rally

Tokyo — Japanese shares pushed their rally into a sixth consecutive day and closed up but off their highs. Sentiment was cheered by steady buying by public pension and insurance funds. Active buying on high-tech issues and futures short-covering helped offset profit-taking, brokers said.

The Nikkei average was up 177.03 points, or 1.02 per cent, to 17,479.04, with an estimated 310 million shares traded.

The Nikkei bottomed at 17,226.98 in mid-morning, down 75.03 points from Wednesday's close.

Futures-linked buying fuelled a rebound and the Nikkei moved into the positive zone until the close, peaking at

17,601.91, up 299.90, in early afternoon. Many city banks are announcing their half-year earnings today but these did not have a major impact on the market.

□ Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index dipped 5.36 points to close at 5,913.18, while the broader All Ordinaries index edged up 2.97 to 3,155.17.

□ Singapore — Institutional buying of blue chips helped push the 30-share Straits Times Industrial index to 1,436.98, up 17.20 points from Wednesday, but off the day's high of 1,440.07.

□ Sydney — The All Ordinaries index closed 8.3 points lower at 1450.9.

German shares edge up

Frankfurt — German shares ended mostly higher as a technical price recovery backed by customer orders pushed the Dax index up to test resistance at 1,530 points.

However, the mid-session assault of the 1,530 level was unsuccessful, and the index slipped back to close only 5.46 points higher at 1,523.18.

One dealer said: "The slightly higher start caught

some people short and that pushed prices up, and there were good customer orders in some stocks. But we could not hold the highs."

The Bundesbank's decision not to change interest rates was widely expected. Some dealers still believe a cut is not far away.

□ New York — Wall Street was closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Grand Met	438p (+10p)
Scot & Newcastle	429p (+13p)
Cable & Wireless	675p (+19p)
Rank Org	825p (+19p)
Friendly Hotels	138p (+12p)
THORN EMI	818p (+12p)
BAT	980p (+18p)
Roithmans 'B'	821p (+11p)
Eurotunnel Units	388p (+20p)
Powell Duffryn	416p (+27p)
Tibbet & Britten	809p (+11p)
Tate & Lyle	737p (+18p)

Japan offered a standard recipe

Japan has reason to rue its acceptance of American-led international demands for deregulation. The more Japan has integrated into the international financial system, the more it has caught the endemic twin diseases of stagnation and destabilisation, due to excessive influence of the financial sector in the economy. The past six years of financial boom and especially the subsequent bust can be attributed in large measure to financial deregulation and the messy introduction of Anglo-Saxon rules in an economy that worked through bureaucratic co-ordination and management. Germany, which has managed to avoid or at least dilute this trend, has fared much better.

The latest Anglo-Saxon prescriptions from the OECD will therefore be received with mixed feelings by the board of Japan Inc. The country has a will to adapt, and a capacity to reform itself root and branch, that are unequalled. They must be the envy of reformers in the former Soviet bloc, on which comparable standard agendas are being pressed. Yet Japanese policymakers must question whether these prescriptions are right and wonder in whose interest they are being proposed.

In principle, reforms of cartels, sweeping away regulations that stifle new competition in distribution, and freeing up land control and use all seem likely to stimulate economic activity. They are, unlike the mid-Eighties pressures, primarily reforms to improve the working of internal markets. This is, however, deceptive. In practice, as before, these prescriptions uncannily reflect demands from North America and Europe to make Japan do business their way so that their big firms can succeed better in Japan. This is splendid for the multinationals. Japan also needs to make some further concessions to Western traders to ease trade frictions, but that is not sole test policymakers should apply.

Reforms are needed. Japan must, for instance, play its full part in the Gatt round by allowing much freer access for food imports at the expense of its heavily protected small farmers. Land use reform could play a big part, but the same effect might be achieved by quite different measures that would be more environmentally friendly and less socially destructive, as French politicians might agree. The important message, perhaps, is that the next phase of Japanese growth is likely to rely much less on the domestic manufacturing sector and be more internal in emphasis. Market opening will need to be planned better this time, however. The sort of simplistic solutions applied to Russia, for lack of an alternative, look out of place.

Opec illusion

Anything that seems to offer stability must seem attractive to those struggling to rebuild the industries of the former Soviet Union, but there are limits. Those members of Opec outside the Middle East would surely welcome with open arms any suggestion that Kazakhstan, and particularly Russia, might consider joining the increasingly narrow and regional oil cartel. Opec meetings are dominated by Middle East politics, most recently by the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia, rather than mutual self-help and friendly co-operation.

Russia needs to develop oil production, then exports, primarily with the help of western oil companies. It may be anxious not to be captive to the Western camp, but the last thing it needs is an Opec quota or even "allocation". As similarly placed Mexico discovered, there are advantages to being on good terms with other big oil producers in tricky times, and co-ordinating thinking. That is different from joining a cartel that does not work but still has the delusion that its decisions affect the world.

The men who step in when businesses are failing say rescue, not closure, is foremost in their minds, writes

Jon Ashworth

How do you value an elephant? Such is the dilemma facing Chris Badow, of Cork Gully, who shut down Windsor Safari Park a month ago and is still pondering what to do with its inmates. Such a task is all part of the job for Britain's insolvency practitioners, who are among the most controversial members of the business world. When a construction giant collapses or an investment company folds, they are first on the scene. The work that ensues makes fortunes for their firms but comes at a price — little sleep, no family life, untold social pressures.

Michael Jordan, of Cork Gully, Britain's biggest insolvency practice, led the team that stepped in when Peter Clowes' investment empire crumbled in May 1988. His work as administrator of Polly Peck International, while lucrative, has had an unpleasant sting in the tail. Mr Jordan, and Richard Stone, senior corporate finance partner at Coopers & Lybrand, Cork Gully's affiliate, were recently found guilty by accountancy regulators of breaching ethical guidelines. The charges arose because Coopers had done some work for Polly Peck and Asil Nadir, its chairman, before the company was placed in administration in October 1990.

Christopher Hughes, managing partner of Cork Gully, has his hands full with the insurance sector. His colleague Ian Bond was liquidator of Amalgamated Investment and Property, the largest property collapse of the seventies, and was more recently receiver to Airship Industries. With 30 years in the industry, he follows legendary insolvency practitioners like Richard Turton, Sir Kenneth Cork and Bill Mackey.

Christopher Morris, head of insolvency at Touche Ross, shot to fame when Laker Airways collapsed in 1982. He sued most of the leading airlines for £1 billion, accusing them of pricing Laker out of the skies. The £80 million or so he raised in an out-of-court settlement was more than enough to reimburse Laker ticket holders. Aeroplanes gave way to battery-powered cars when he stepped in after Sir Clive Sinclair's ambitious C5 project failed. He has his hands full now as joint administrator of Polly Peck and liquidator of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. One associate said: "He is flamboyant while appearing very calm at the same time. You have to be if you want to stand on a stool and face 1,000 steelworkers."

Morris often shares the headlines with Brian Smouha, the firm's banking specialist, who, as lead liquidator of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, is working on a plan to extract compensation from the Bank



Jumbo task: insolvency experts must put a value on the elephants at Windsor Safari Park, closed down by Cork Gully a month ago

of England. Smouha led the liquidation of Banco Ambrosiano in 1984.

Nigel Hamilton, national head of insolvency and recovery services at KPMG Peat Marwick, combined with some of Britain's biggest corporate collapses. His assignments include Barlow Clowes, Coloroll, Lowndes Queensway and Builders Wharf. "For me, insolvency started off as a way of staying in the profession and having an interesting job," said Mr Hamilton, president of the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency. "We all know one another but very rarely get together as a group."

Stephen Adamson, of Ernst & Young, led efforts to save the Jubilee Line underground extension in London's Docklands. "We do have long hours, but we're as good as our last job. The banks don't have any obligation to you as an insolvency practitioner." Late on May 27, bankers to Canary Wharf called the administrators. "I worked through the night, got to bed at 4 am and was up again at 5.30," said Mr Adamson. "At 8.30, a judge heard the order in his flat, then we rushed off to Canary Wharf to inform the staff."

He found himself in a similar situation when British & Commonwealth collapsed in June 1990. "The order had to be made on a Sunday night to prevent a run on Monday morning. We went to the judge at his home in Holland Park, but he had

hurt his back and we saw him in his bedroom."

Unlike many of his peers, Tim Hayward, head of corporate recovery at KPMG Peat Marwick, combined insolvency work with general practice until the mid-eighties. He cut his teeth when Rolls-Royce collapsed in 1971 and found himself landing on tankers off the Cape of Good Hope after Court Line, the package holiday operator, collapsed in August 1974. "I went out to South Africa to deal with the helicopter side and keep up morale," he said.

John Talbot, of Arthur Andersen, can thank Robert Maxwell for his new-found fame. His talent for insolvency was discovered in 1974 after the company he worked for called in the receivers. They gave him a job. In October 1991, he made receivership history by taking Norfolk House, the collapsed petrol station group, back to the stock market as Frost Group. As administrator to the Maxwell private companies, Mr Talbot controls the 54 per cent stake in Mirror Group Newspapers owned by the late Robert Maxwell's creditor banks. Price Waterhouse has pulled out all the stops for the administration of Maxwell Communication Corporation. At its peak, nearly 100 people were working on MCC full time. David Lee, a specialist investigator, has been leading efforts to trace assets. Mark Homan, lead administrator of MCC,

said there is little satisfaction in the Maxwell-type case, remuneration aside. "I think the recession of the early eighties was the 'best' in the sense that we were dealing with real people making real things. Now, we're dealing with 'funny money'. People who criticise the level of fees have no idea of the work involved. We have \$1,000 million in assets to sell in the US for a start, quite apart from the fraud."

He works 14 to 15-hour days and has been alternating between London and New York. Peter Phillips of Buchler Phillips, is receiver to Maxwell's personal estate. He has taken about 1,000 insolvency appointments since 1986.

The task of winding up Bishopsate Investment Management, which ran the Maxwell pension funds, has fallen on Neil Cooper, of Robson Rhodes. "I have been working 15 to 18-hour days for most of the past year," said Mr Cooper, who is also trustee in bankruptcy to Asil Nadir and is helping wind up the European assets of Alan Bond. He and Ipe Jacob are receivers to Clarke Foods, which owns Lyons Maid ice cream.

The cost of the Maxwell investigations has angered shareholders and pensioners alike. Mr Cooper's fees had reached £1.6 million at the last count, but he had in turn made £5.8

million in income on secured assets of £249 million. The cost of recovering £110 million from private Maxwell companies has reached £11 million, and £15 million has been spent recovering £59 million at MCC.

Allan Griffiths, head of a 400-strong insolvency team at Grant Thornton, saved Keith Prowse, the ticket and entertainments group. "We came in on a Friday night after negotiations with two parties collapsed," said Mr Griffiths. "In ten nights, I had no more than 30 hours' sleep." Grant Thornton has one of the busiest insolvency departments after Cork Gully and KPMG Peat Marwick, despite its smaller size. "The general view of the public is that we are just merchants who close things down," said Mr Griffiths. 47. "To the contrary, 80 per cent of our time is now spent on rescue rather than insolvency."

Powerful regional players include Leonard Curtis and Levy Gee, Peter Copp and Ray Hocking, of Stoy Hayward, specialise in the UK hotel industry, as does Stuart Baird, who heads the insolvency team at Parnell Kerr Forster.

The work of these players is full of surprises. "I once tracked a possible asset to a safe deposit box in New York," said Mr Hocking, who found himself in the headlines in June 1990 when Dunsdale Securities collapsed. "We opened it up and found 52 gold bars worth £1 million."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Record goes up in smoke

RECESSION? What recession? The cigar merchants of St James's, London, are celebrating what is almost certainly the biggest single private sale of cigars in the history of the trade. The previous record was set in 1982 when an Englishman walked into the Robert Lewis showroom at 19 St James's Street and paid £48,750 for approximately 30,000 cigars — enough, it was estimated, to keep him puffing away for at least ten years. That record was shattered last week when an accountant and a solicitor, reputedly acting for a Far Eastern connoisseur, arrived at Davidoff of London and agreed a sum of £72,120 for 5,000 Davidoff No. 1's and 2,000 Davidoff No. 2's, a milder range of Havana cigars. "It is the first time in my life that I have sold cigars through a solicitor," says Edward Sahakian, the proprietor, who is also in the dark over the identity of his client. "Whoever he is, he likes the good things in life."

In the Lainglight

SHOULD company chairmen strive to look grim during the recession or are they allowed to smile? Complaints from analysts that Martin Laing, chairman of John Laing, the badly affected construction group, always looks depressed and dour have inspired some interesting stories. According to *Building Magazine*, Laing was so concerned about miserable pictures of



Laing: serious about image

him in the press that he paid £300 for spotlights at the company's last meeting to try and project a brighter, more upbeat image. Laing denies he did any such thing. "I am quite happy with the way I look," he says, adding that he thinks beaming shots would be out of place. "One tries not to look too solemn but, in these days of recession, photographs of happy, smiling businessmen would seem to be inappropriate." Shareholders probably agree. Laing was deeply in the red in 1992 and analysts expect only nominal profits this year.

Doctor's orders

SIR Lewis Robertson, Scotland's most famous company doctor and the first chief executive of the Scottish Development Agency in 1976, will be surrounded by Scotland's great and good tonight for his 70th birthday celebrations. Robertson, currently reviving

Stakis, the leisure group, has taken over Queens Hall, Edinburgh, and is treating 200 guests to a birthday concert. Robertson says the event is to say thank you to friends and the many people who have helped him, but he is not aiming for an eclectic *Desert Island Discs* style programme. Instead, he is indulging in a night of undiluted Richard Strauss. "I've been addicted to him for 30 years and I think that he who pays the piper should be able to call the tune." With Norman Delmar conducting the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, guests are unlikely to complain.

Watch words

SPECULATIVE hype seems to be reaching feverish proportions at Bonham's, the Knightsbridge auction house, which is holding the first British sale of "collector pieces" Swatch watches today. With market manipulation such as City brokers only dream of, Nicholas Hayek, the creator, has engineered "secondary" and "futures" markets in limited Swatch editions and Alex Crum Ewing, Bonham's "Swatch specialist", shamelessly adopting City jargon, says certain lots in today's sale are already "fifteen times oversubscribed". Hype it may be, but the prices expected indicate healthy profits for investors. Lot 39, "Hollywood Dream" is one of a "limited" edition of 5,000 watches created for Christmas 1990. It originally sold for £50 and is expected to fetch £800 to £1,000 today.

DEBRA ISAAC

BUSINESS LETTERS

Foreign competition deprives British industry of business

From L. Bennett
Sir, British Steel has, while reporting operating losses running at £1 million a week, complained about the substantial imports of Eastern bloc steel into the UK. Unfair competition is claimed as Eastern bloc countries take advantage of their low costs and soft currencies to make significant inroads into the UK market. Government intervention is requested to control the level of imports and prevent further closures and redundancies.

This request should be considered in the light of British Steel's purchasing policy for coal. Its steelworks consume over 10 million tonnes of coal per annum — hardly an ounce of which is from the Durham or Welsh coalfields where the main steelworks are located. British Steel has opted to import much of its coal from the same Eastern bloc countries (including Poland and

Russia), which are now taking the UK steel market.

Where is the policy for industry which is so obviously needed?

As this letter makes its way over the Severn Bridge, it has just been announced that a contract for the prestigious second Severn Bridge has been awarded by Laine-GTM to the Italians. Some £7 million worth of steel is to be imported from Italy when the UK has the Llanwrnog Steelworks near the Severn Bridge working five days per week due to lack of orders.

Michael Heseltine, trade minister, should wake up and realise there is work in the UK but it is being lost by allowing British companies to compete with foreign governments.

Yours faithfully,
L. BENNETT,
15 Elizabeth Close,
Ynysforgan,
Swansea,
West Glamorgan.

Ofwat should clear up water bill confusion

From J. E. Rednall
Sir, In his letter about water charges (November 9) Mr Forster expresses the expectation that meters will bring bills payable in arrears. This is a view that the Mid Sussex Water Company does not appear to share. On 8 September they installed at my request and cost a water meter at my property. Since then I have been trying by telephone and letter to obtain from them amended bills for the first and second halves of the accounting year 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1993. Their only response so far has been to send me a final notice for the period 1 October 1992 to 31 March 1993 on

the old rateable value basis despite the installation of a meter.

I have of course returned this for correction. But surely Ofwat should require water companies, when entering into contracts with customers to install meters, to set out clearly the way in which the change from payment in advance based on rateable value to payment in arrears based on metered consumption will be made.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. REDNALL,
The Seng House,
Farm Lane,
Ditchling,
Hastings,
West Sussex.

Bradford & Bingley mortgage rates are down.

Notice is given to borrowers whose existing variable rate loan or mortgage was completed on or before 22nd January 1992 that the rate charged will be reduced by 1.45% on 1st December 1992 (or later in accordance with the mortgage deed).

For borrowers who completed after 22nd January 1992 and who benefited from the Society's special "10.5% rate offer" the rate charged will be reduced by 1.25% on 1st December 1992.

For all other borrowers who completed after 22nd January and before 25th September the rate charged will be reduced by 1.45% on 1st December 1992.

For all borrowers who completed between 25th September and 30th October the rate charged will be reduced by 0.7% on 1st December 1992.

Borrowers who completed on or after 21st October 1992 already benefit from the Society's new rate structure and therefore will remain at their current level.

Those borrowers on fixed rate mortgages will continue to be charged the agreed rate until the end of the period stated in their offer of mortgage.

Under our procedure on reviewing subscriptions annually, all borrowers will be notified of any revised interest rate and monthly payment with their annual statement in January 1993. No automatic change will be made to borrowers' monthly payments before that date.

However, those members who wish to immediately receive details of their interest rate, or change their monthly payment can of course do so and should enquire at their local branch office.

Any borrower whose mortgage is not covered by any of the above will be advised individually by letter.

BRADFORD & BINGLEY
BUILDING SOCIETY

Bradford & Bingley Building Society, PO Box 88, Cook Rd, Crossflats, Bingley, W. Yorks. BD16 2UA

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26 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FT-SE VOLUME

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OR INDICES

FTSE Euro 100: 1048.05 (+5.50)		Period	Open	High	Low	Close V
Brussels:						
Genoa	5558.16 (+34.10)	Dec 92	2725.0	2767.0	2725.0	2758.0
Paris: CAC	459.57 (+1.92)	Mar 93	2713.0	2713.0	2713.0	2719.0
Zurich: S&K Gen	388.1 (+1.7)	Dec 92	92.92	92.94	92.88	92.86
		Mar 93	93.71	93.73	93.65	93.64
		Dec 92	96.00	96.00	96.00	96.00
		Mar 93	96.09	96.13	96.09	96.10
London:						
FT A-All-Share	1297.56 (+12.21)	Dec 92	91.34	91.25	91.21	91.21
FT 500	1440.36 (+13.53)	Mar 93	92.43	92.44	92.35	92.35
FT Gold Mines	66.70 (+2.3)	Dec 92	103.94	103.94	103.32	102.33
FT Fixed Interest	108.66 (+0.23)	Mar 93	91.40	91.49	91.38	91.54
FT Govt Secur	93.75 (+0.23)	Mar 93	91.92	91.96	91.84	91.87
Barclays		Dec 92	89.70	89.70	89.51	89.52
SEAQ Volume	601.1M	Mar 93	91.18	91.20	91.05	91.05
USM (Datastream)	114.88 (+0.02)	Dec 92	93.66	93.68	93.58	93.62
		Mar 93	94.60	94.60	94.50	94.51
AL OPTIONS						
Last Declaration		For Settlement				
February 25		March 8				
* Arron, ASDA, Betherwaite, British Airways, British Telecom, British Petroleum, British Rail, Humeoed, Pilkington, Queens Hotel.						

COMING UP

[illegible]

Brazil cruzeiro * _____
 Cyprus pound _____
 Finland mark _____

Tin	Greece (drachma)	314.37-318.73	Germany	1,993.1-1,994.3
	Hong Kong (dollar)	1.11-1.15	Hong Kong (dollar)	1,993.1-1,994.3
	India (rupee)	1.11-1.15	Indonesia	1,640.1-1,641.3
	Indonesia (rupiah)	1,640.1-1,641.3	Italy	1,368.0-1,369.0
	Jamaica (J.D.)	0.4358-0.4402	Japan (yen)	121.93-122.03
	Malaysia (ringgit)	0.4358-0.4402	Malaysia	2,526.2-2,527.8
0.40	Mexico peso	4,750-4,850	Netherlands	2,375.1-2,376.3
	New Zealand (dollar)	2,375.1-2,376.3	Norway	1,320.0-1,320.3
0.35	Saudi Arabia (r.)	5,679.5-5,676	Portugal	1,710.1-1,710.9
0.33	Singapore (Singapore dollar)	2,485.6-2,486.8	Spain	1,612.1-1,613.2
0.30	Africa rand (fin)	7,502.4-7,677.0	Sweden	7,650.4-7,750.9
0.25	Africa rand (econ)	4,581.9-5,581.9	Switzerland	1,450.1-1,452.5
unit	A & Z dict.	1,450.1-1,452.5		
	Barclays Bank GTR	Lloyds Bank		
	B.T.R.C.			

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REPORT NUMBER:

<p>Some were coded into and wheat futures dipped to close. Profit taking slowed interest was seen just prior to the close. The barley market saw little interest all day. Robusta coffee and cocoa futures closed with light gains in very low activity as a result of the US Thanksgiving holiday. White sugar demand mildly firmer.</p>			
<p>LONDON FIBER</p>			
Dec	711 BID	Mar	824-823
Mar	737-736	May	840-834
May	727-730	Jul	850-849
Jul	767-767	Sep	866-862
Dec	781-781		
Dec	803-801	Volume:	3713
<p>ROBUSTA COFFEES (¢)</p>			
Nov	017413	Jul	972-970
Jan	986-986	Sep	986-980
Mar	990-985	Nov	1005-1009
May	962-962	Volume:	1018
<p>RAW SUGAR (¢)</p>			
C Canehead	Aug	192.0-88.0	
Coc cane	Dec	192.0-88.0	
Dec	187-0-80.0	Dec	192.0-88.0
Mar	190-88.0	Mar	192.0-88.0
May	192.0-88.0	Volume:	49
<p>WHITE SUGAR FIB</p>			
Dec	250-49.0	Dec	250-49.0
Sep	252.0	Dec	251-50.0
Mar	252.5-52.0	Mar	252.5-52.0
May	252.5-52.7	May	252.5-52.7
Aug	262.4-61.3	Volume:	66
<p>MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION</p>			
<p>Announced batch prices in London for the week ending 26th November 20</p>			
Grating (lb)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
Dec	87.68	72.28	80.28
Jan	-3.35	-0.96	-1.80
Feb	-3.35	-0.96	-1.80
Mar	87.71	72.23	80.26
Apr	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Jul	87.71	72.23	80.26
Aug	87.71	72.23	80.26
Sep	87.71	72.23	80.26
Oct	87.71	72.23	80.26
Nov	87.71	72.23	80.26
Dec	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jan	87.71	72.23	80.26
Feb	87.71	72.23	80.26
Mar	87.71	72.23	80.26
Apr	87.71	72.23	80.26
May	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jun	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jul	87.71	72.23	80.26
Aug	87.71	72.23	80.26
Sep	87.71	72.23	80.26
Oct	87.71	72.23	80.26
Nov	87.71	72.23	80.26
Dec	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jan	87.71	72.23	80.26
Feb	87.71	72.23	80.26
Mar	87.71	72.23	80.26
Apr	87.71	72.23	80.26
May	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jun	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jul	87.71	72.23	80.26
Aug	87.71	72.23	80.26
Sep	87.71	72.23	80.26
Oct	87.71	72.23	80.26
Nov	87.71	72.23	80.26
Dec	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jan	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Mar	87.71	72.23	80.26
Apr	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Sep	87.71	72.23	80.26
Oct	87.71	72.23	80.26
Nov	87.71	72.23	80.26
Dec	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jan	87.71	72.23	80.26
Feb	87.71	72.23	80.26
Mar	87.71	72.23	80.26
Apr	87.71	72.23	80.26
May	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jun	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jul	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Sep	87.71	72.23	80.26
Oct	87.71	72.23	80.26
Nov	87.71	72.23	80.26
Dec	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jan	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Mar	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Jul	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Oct	87.71	72.23	80.26
Nov	87.71	72.23	80.26
Dec	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Dec	87.71	72.23	80.26
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May	87.71	72.23	80.26
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Jul	87.71	72.23	80.26
Aug	87.71	72.23	80.26
Sep	87.71	72.23	80.26
Oct	87.71	72.23	80.26
Nov	87.71	72.23	80.26
Dec	87.71	72.23	80.26
Jan	87.71	72.23	80.26
Feb	87.71	72.23	80.26

BARLEY

Jan	135.70	KPS 2 OILS	
Feb	138.40	CMT Ltd	
Mar	139.50	GAS OIL	
Apr	140.00	Dec	175.75
May	139.50	Jan	176.50-78.75
Jun	117.75	Feb	177.50 SLR
Volume: 42		Mar	179.00
		Apr	180.00
		May	181.00
		Jun	182.00
		Jul	183.00
		Aug	184.00
		Sep	185.00
		Oct	186.00
		Nov	187.00
		Dec	188.00
		Jan	189.00
		Feb	190.00
		Mar	191.00
		Apr	192.00
		May	193.00
		Jun	194.00
		Jul	195.00
		Aug	196.00
		Sep	197.00
		Oct	198.00
		Nov	199.00
		Dec	200.00
		Jan	201.00
		Feb	202.00
		Mar	203.00
		Apr	204.00
		May	205.00
		Jun	206.00
		Jul	207.00
		Aug	208.00
		Sep	209.00
		Oct	210.00
		Nov	211.00
		Dec	212.00
		Jan	213.00
		Feb	214.00
		Mar	215.00
		Apr	216.00
		May	217.00
		Jun	218.00
		Jul	219.00
		Aug	220.00
		Sep	221.00
		Oct	222.00
		Nov	223.00
		Dec	224.00
		Jan	225.00
		Feb	226.00
		Mar	227.00
		Apr	228.00
		May	229.00
		Jun	230.00
		Jul	231.00
		Aug	232.00
		Sep	233.00
		Oct	234.00
		Nov	235.00
		Dec	236.00
		Jan	237.00
		Feb	238.00
		Mar	239.00
		Apr	240.00
		May	241.00
		Jun	242.00
		Jul	243.00
		Aug	244.00
		Sep	245.00
		Oct	246.00
		Nov	247.00
		Dec	248.00
		Jan	249.00
		Feb	250.00
		Mar	251.00
		Apr	252.00
		May	253.00
		Jun	254.00
		Jul	255.00
		Aug	256.00
		Sep	257.00
		Oct	258.00
		Nov	259.00
		Dec	260.00
		Jan	261.00
		Feb	262.00
		Mar	263.00
		Apr	264.00
		May	265.00
		Jun	266.00
		Jul	267.00
		Aug	268.00
		Sep	269.00
		Oct	270.00
		Nov	271.00
		Dec	272.00
		Jan	273.00
		Feb	274.00
		Mar	275.00
		Apr	276.00
		May	277.00
		Jun	278.00
		Jul	279.00
		Aug	280.00
		Sep	281.00
		Oct	282.00
		Nov	283.00
		Dec	284.00
		Jan	285.00
		Feb	286.00
		Mar	287.00
		Apr	288.00
		May	289.00
		Jun	290.00
		Jul	291.00
		Aug	292.00
		Sep	293.00
		Oct	294.00
		Nov	295.00
		Dec	296.00
		Jan	297.00
		Feb	298.00
		Mar	299.00
		Apr	300.00
		May	301.00
		Jun	302.00
		Jul	303.00
		Aug	304.00
		Sep	305.00
		Oct	306.00
		Nov	307.00
		Dec	308.00
		Jan	309.00
		Feb	310.00
		Mar	311.00
		Apr	312.00
		May	313.00
		Jun	314.00
		Jul	315.00
		Aug	316.00
		Sep	317.00
		Oct	318.00
		Nov	319.00
		Dec	320.00
		Jan	321.00
		Feb	322.00
		Mar	323.00
		Apr	324.00
		May	325.00
		Jun	326.00
		Jul	327.00
		Aug	328.00
		Sep	329.00
		Oct	330.00
		Nov	331.00
		Dec	332.00
		Jan	333.00
		Feb	334.00
		Mar	335.00
		Apr	336.00
		May	337.00
		Jun	338.00
		Jul	339.00
		Aug	340.00
		Sep	341.00
		Oct	342.00
		Nov	343.00
		Dec	344.00
		Jan	345.00
		Feb	346.00
		Mar	347.00
		Apr	348.00
		May	349.00
		Jun	350.00
		Jul	351.00
		Aug	352.00
		Sep	353.00
		Oct	354.00
		Nov	355.00
		Dec	356.00
		Jan	357.00
		Feb	358.00
		Mar	359.00
		Apr	360.00
		May	361.00
		Jun	362.00
		Jul	363.00
		Aug	364.00
		Sep	365.00
		Oct	366.00
		Nov	367.00
		Dec	368.00
		Jan	369.00
		Feb	370.00
		Mar	371.00
		Apr	372.00
		May	373.00
		Jun	374.00
		Jul	375.00
		Aug	376.00
		Sep	377.00
		Oct	378.00
		Nov	379.00
		Dec	380.00
		Jan	381.00
		Feb	382.00
		Mar	383.00
		Apr	384.00
		May	385.00
		Jun	386.00
		Jul	387.00
		Aug	388.00
		Sep	389.00
		Oct	390.00
		Nov	391.00
		Dec	392.00
		Jan	393.00
		Feb	394.00
		Mar	395.00
		Apr	396.00
		May	397.00
		Jun	398.00
		Jul	399.00
		Aug	400.00
		Sep	401.00
		Oct	402.00
		Nov	403.00
		Dec	404.00
		Jan	405.00
		Feb	406.00
		Mar	407.00
		Apr	408.00
		May	409.00
		Jun	410.00
		Jul	411.00
		Aug	412.00
		Sep	413.00
		Oct	414.00
		Nov	415.00
		Dec	416.00
		Jan	417.00
		Feb	418.00
		Mar	419.00
		Apr	420.00
		May	421.00
		Jun	422.00
		Jul	423.00
		Aug	424.00
		Sep	425.00
		Oct	426.00
		Nov	427.00
		Dec	428.00
		Jan	429.00
		Feb	430.00
		Mar	431.00
		Apr	432.00
		May	433.00
		Jun	434.00
		Jul	435.00
		Aug	436.00
		Sep	437.00
		Oct	438.00
		Nov	439.00
		Dec	440.00
		Jan	441.00
		Feb	442.00
		Mar	443.00
		Apr	444.00
		May	445.00
		Jun	446.00
		Jul	447.00
		Aug	448.00
		Sep	449.00
		Oct	450.00
		Nov	451.00
		Dec	452.00
		Jan	453.00
		Feb	454.00
		Mar	455.00
		Apr	456.00
		May	457.00
		Jun	458.00
		Jul	459.00
		Aug	460.00
		Sep	461.00
		Oct	462.00
		Nov	463.00
		Dec	464.00
		Jan	465.00
		Feb	466.00
		Mar	467.00
		Apr	468.00
		May	469.00
		Jun	470.00
		Jul	471.00
		Aug	472.00
		Sep	473.00
		Oct	474.00
		Nov	475.00
		Dec	476.00
		Jan	477.00
		Feb	478.00
		Mar	479.00
		Apr	480.00
		May	481.00
		Jun	482.00
		Jul	483.00
		Aug	484.00
		Sep	485.00
		Oct	486.00
		Nov	487.00
		Dec	488.00
		Jan	489.00
		Feb	490.00
		Mar	491.00
		Apr	492.00
		May	493.00
		Jun	494.00
		Jul	495.00
		Aug	496.00
		Sep	497.00
		Oct	498.00
		Nov	499.00
		Dec	500.00
		Jan	501.00
		Feb	502.00
		Mar	503.00
		Apr	504.00
		May	505.00
		Jun	506.00
		Jul	507.00
		Aug	508.00
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		Dec	524.00
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		Feb	526.00
		Mar	527.00
		Apr	528.00
		May	529.00
		Jun	530.00
		Jul	531.00
		Aug	532.00
		Sep	533.00
		Oct	534.00
		Nov	535.00
		Dec	536.00
		Jan	537.00
		Feb	538.00
		Mar	539.00
		Apr	540.00
		May	541.00
		Jun	542.00
		Jul	543.00
		Aug	544.00
		Sep	545.00
		Oct	546.00
		Nov	547.00
		Dec	548.00
		Jan	549.00
		Feb	550.00
		Mar	551.00
		Apr	552.00
		May	553.00
		Jun	554.00
		Jul	555.00
		Aug	556.00
		Sep	557.00
		Oct	558.00
		Nov	559.00
		Dec	560.00
		Jan	561.00
		Feb	562.00
		Mar	563.00
		Apr	564.00
		May	565.00
		Jun	566.00
		Jul	567.00
		Aug	568.00
		Sep	569.00
		Oct	570.00
		Nov	571.00
		Dec	572.00
		Jan	573.00
		Feb	574.00
		Mar	575.00
		Apr	576.00
		May	577.00
		Jun	578.00
		Jul	579.00
		Aug	580.00
		Sep	581.00
		Oct	582.00
		Nov	583.00
		Dec	584.00
		Jan	585.00
		Feb	586.00
		Mar	587.00
		Apr	588.00
		May	589.00
		Jun	590.00
		Jul	591.00
		Aug	592.00
		Sep	593.00
		Oct	594.00
		Nov	595.00
		Dec	596.00
		Jan	597.00

(-3) Discount Market Loan
Treasury Bills (Dkt):

Prime Bank Bills (High)	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Sterling Money Rates	5 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	5 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	5 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	5 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆
Interbank	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆
Overnight open T ₁ close 3 ₁	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆
Local Authority Depos:	7 ₁	n/a	7 ₁	7 ₁
Sterling CDs	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ 6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆
Dollar CDs	3.09-3.05	n/a	3.70-3.67	3.62-3.64
Building Society CDs:	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	7 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆

MCOG: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Oct 30, 1992 Agreed rates
 Nov 25, 1992 to Dec 25, 1992 Scheme I & 7.5% Schemes II & III: 9.65% Reference rate
 Oct 1, 1992 to Oct 30, 1992 Scheme IV & V: 8.45%

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆
Deutschmark:	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆
Japanese Franc:	11 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ -10 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	11 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ -10 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	10 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ -10 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	10 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ -9 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	10 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆
Swiss Franc:	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	6 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆
Yen:	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ -4 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ -3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ -3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆ -3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆	4 ⁰⁰ / ₁₆

Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
Jan	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Feb	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Mar	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Apr	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
May	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Jun	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Jul	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Aug	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Sep	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Oct	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Nov	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	
Dec	28	30	31	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	

Underlying treasury prices.

Jan 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Feb 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Mar 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Apr 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 May 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Jun 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Jul 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Aug 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Sep 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Oct 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Nov 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31
 Dec 28 30 31 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31

Portfolio

From your Portfolio Plus card check your capital gains and losses on this page. Add them up to give you your overall capital gains and losses. The daily dividend figures, 10 pence per share, are shown on the back of your card. The daily price movement on the back of your card. Always have your card with you when trading. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Share	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
2	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
3	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
4	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
5	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
6	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
7	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
8	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
9	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
10	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
11	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
12	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
13	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
14	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
15	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
16	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
17	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
18	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
19	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
20	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
21	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
22	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
23	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
24	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
25	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
26	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
27	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
28	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
29	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
30	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
31	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
32	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
33	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
34	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
35	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
36	Liberty Life	100	1.15	1.15	1.15
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Please take into account any share splits

1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

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Shares higher in thin trade

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 16. Dealings end today. \$Contango day Monday. Settlement day December 7. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.



THEATRE page 30

Split personality:
Desmond Barrit plays
twins at the reopened
Theatre Royal, Norwich

ARTS

MUSIC page 31

James Levine opens the
Vienna Philharmonic's
ambitious world tour
of subscription concerts



GALLERIES: Richard Cork on the darker world below the sunny surface of Patrick Caulfield's work

Attractive, but uneasy on the eye

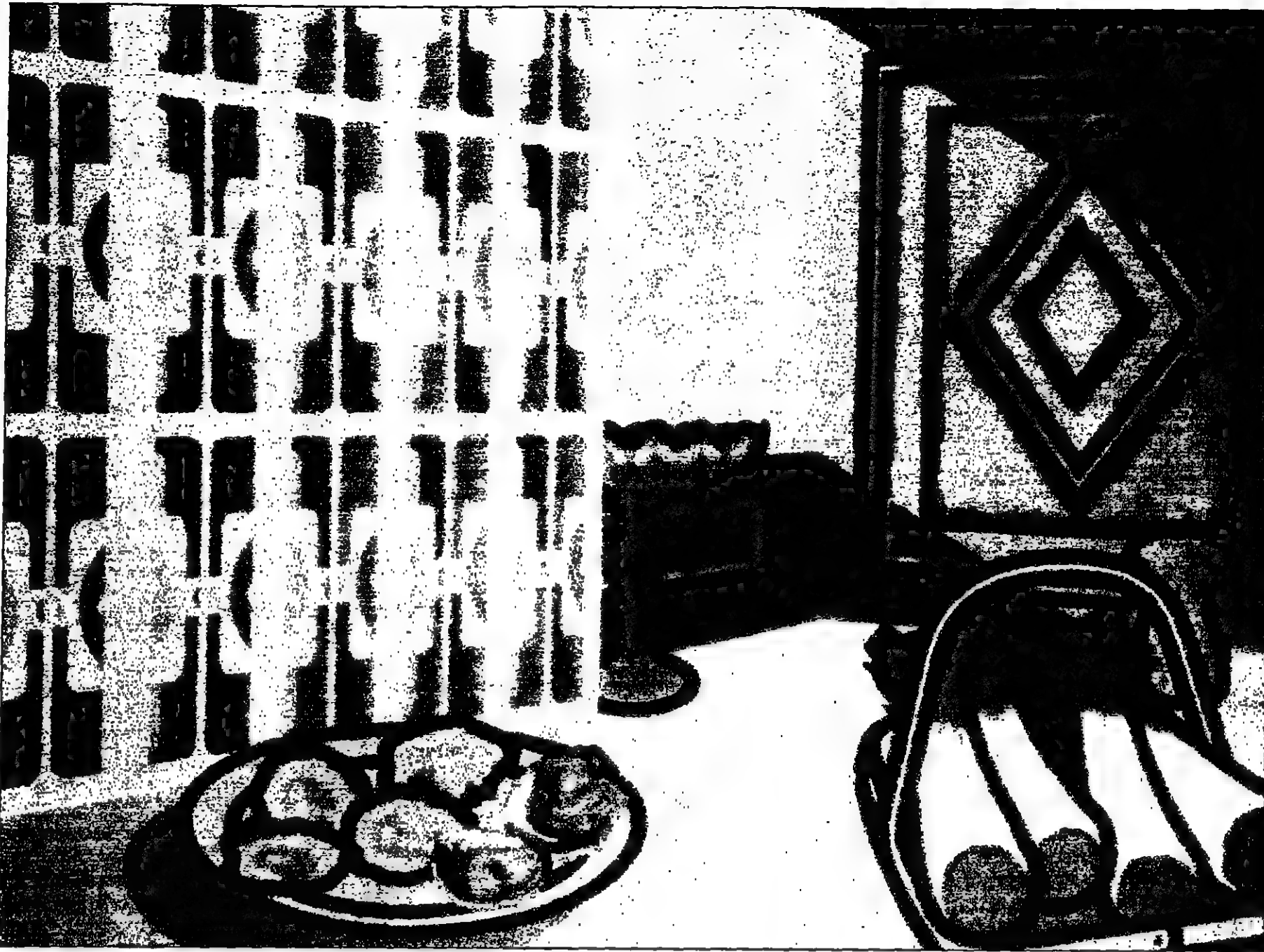
Intimate, congenial, and still retaining an aura of the tea room it was originally intended to be, the Serpentine Gallery proves an ideal location for a Patrick Caulfield retrospective. His paintings, many of them modest in size, look thoroughly at home on the hospitable white walls. Preoccupied above all with the theme of drinks and meals about to be consumed, they chime with the Serpentine's atmosphere as readily as its real tables and chairs must once have done. These are civilised images, ostensibly bound up with pleasure alone. And the seductive views of parkland outside the gallery neatly mirror Caulfield's partiality for contrasting his well-stocked urban interiors with glimpses, through windows and doorways, of another world.

The more we investigate his work, though, the less straightforwardly delectable it becomes. Even in the Sixties, when Caulfield was rather too hastily lumped together with other, far more committed British practitioners of Pop Art, his mood remained distanced from their breathless, fan-club celebration of mass culture. While relying on postcards, cartoons, tourist brochures and advertisements to develop the clean-cut style he favoured, Caulfield introduced a disquieting note as well.

The unrelieved red blaring beyond a row of comic-strip chimneys in *View of the Rooftops* has an almost incendiary impact. As well as signifying a sunset, it hints at a far greater conflagration. The year was 1965, and cold-war tensions still lurked behind the effervescence which Pop cultivated. Caulfield is too cool and oblique to deal with such anxieties directly. In 1991 he defined Pop Art as "Social Realism without emotion" and his work hides strong feeling beneath a deadpan facade. But his icon-like *Portrait of Juan Gris* hints at considerable unease as it surrounds the figure of the painter with jagged, menacing lines that seek to ensnare him. The Gris picture also implies that Caulfield's true allegiance lies with Cubism rather than Warhol — a loyalty borne out by his subsequent obsession with the twin genres of interior and still life.

The two are often combined in a single picture, like the tall, pared-down *Dining Room* of 1972. Painted in the flat, linear manner of an illustration from a cheap mail-order leaflet, this austere image has the factual bluntness of a diagram. In most of the canvases, colour is restricted to an unintriguing grey, and the plastic chairs arranged round the table could hardly be more standardised. Only the globular hanging lamp alleviates the aridity with a sudden, unexpected orb of pure white light.

After 1975, Caulfield began to move away from precise, all-over linear definition. Now areas of virtuosic illusionism interrupt the



Autumn Fashion, 1978. Particularly assured, the apparently festive painting is as disturbing as a Dutch still life loaded with symbols of *vanitas* and mortality

diagrammatic contours. And along with the greater complexity of language, more forceful moods are sometimes explored. *Study of Roses* takes a cliché of loveliness and turns it into a jarring alternative. The flowers are there all right, rendered so skilfully that they resemble pieces of photographic collage cut from the covers of seed catalogues and pasted onto the canvas. But they are, in reality, the product of Caulfield's increasingly resourceful brushwork. And their prettiness is subverted by the explosion of leaves, thrusting out of their glass container with such violence that they threaten to choke the picture. As a result, the roses are stranded in a monstrous tangle of foliage.

Office Party lingers over the

aftermath of celebration, where discarded corks and abandoned peanuts are scattered among the wine bottles. Lodged in the background, and identifiable either as a view or a poster on the back wall, a strangely photographic rendering of an Italianate church appears. It looks anomalous enough to be an afterthought.

Even when his paintings lack this element of unexpected intrusion, they can still exude a powerful sense of strain. Take *Still Life: Autumn Fashion*, a particularly assured performance which may well derive from an illustration for a recipe in a women's magazine. The plump white legs appear

tempting enough, heaped in a wicker basket at the forefront of the picture. So do two of the oysters, painted so beguilingly that we must resist the urge to reach out and try plucking them from the canvas. But the other four oysters on the same plate have turned blue, caught in the shadow cast by a wall or partition covered in a ferocious pattern.

The ambiguity of this area overturns all our confident assumptions about the interior as a whole. What exactly is this expanse of wallpaper, resting on the table and partially obscuring a kitsch ruby-coloured dish? Why does it press forward so fiercely, in a room crammed with other, equally assertive fabrics and geometric panelling? The mouth-

watering oysters become almost repellent in this strident setting. Caulfield's apparently festive painting ends up as disturbing as a Dutch still life loaded with symbols of *vanitas* and mortality.

All the same, his work evades decisive interpretations of all kinds. Although *Town and Country* devotes alarming expanses of space to an even more garish wallpaper, Caulfield defines it with relish rather than disdain. He savours the pattern's brazen assault on the retina, just as he enjoys juxtaposing half-a-dozen contradictory styles in a single picture. Pointillism, hard-edge abstraction, photo-realism and minimalism all jostle within this supremely accomplished image.

In recent years Caulfield has stepped up his involvement with empty space, most commandingly on immense canvases where a few still-life objects hover weirdly in the void. I find them too large and bare for their own good, lacking the tension and complexity which gives the denser, modest-size canvases their edge. Caulfield should guard against dissipating his pictorial energy in the pursuit of monumentality, and concentrate instead on those smaller, often bitter, yet oddly enticing images, where underlying melancholy is pitched against a defiant appetite for even the most indigestible of mealtime tableaux.

Patrick Caulfield: Paintings 1963-1992 at the Serpentine Gallery (071-402 6075) daily 10-6, until Jan 17.

ARTS BRIEFING

The right stuff for a rights rite

A DIVERSE and eccentric lineup has been organised for Amnesty International's Concert for Human Rights at the Festival Hall on Sunday night. In what is being described as a "unique fusion of classical and contemporary artists" the human rights organisation is bringing together new music specialists the Balanescu Quartet; pop singer Alison Moyet, with her new acoustic sound; and Sinead O'Connor, the aggressive Irish pop star.

And all that is just before the interval. The evening's second half is devoted to the European premiere of *The Forest*, an orchestral work by ex-Talking Head David Byrne which was inspired by 19th-century Romanticism and the Industrial Revolution.

Sunday night's fund-raising concert, the first of an intended annual series, is designed to highlight the organisation's current campaign in support of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. Tickets, from £10-£25, are available from the Festival Hall (071-928 8800).

U2 VOCALIST Bono may seem an unlikely choice as only the second man ever to grace the cover of *Vogue* magazine (the first was Terence Stamp in the Sixties). His presence in black leather and wraparound "fly" shades on the front of the December issue signals not only the magazine's new policy of courting the "yoo!" celebrity end of the market, but also the increasing power that fashion designers now wield in the process of rock-star image-building. The well-timed publicity coincides with U2's announcement of the so-called Zooropa 93 Tour. British dates are at Celtic Park, Glasgow (041-227 5511) on August 7; Wembley Stadium (081-900 1234) August 11 and 12; Roundhay Park, Leeds (0532 444 600) August 14; and Cardiff Arms Park (0222 644 996) August 18. Tickets are going on sale from tomorrow at 10am.

Last chance...

IN ANOTHER man's story, a boy who was refused the hand of the girl he adores might run away with her, jump out of a top-floor window, or simply bite his fingers in cellophane frustration. In Solomon Anski's classic Yiddish play, *The Dybbuk*, he dies of grief and then sets up a posthumous squall in her living body, troubling the rabbi and baffling the people. The result is one of the RSC's more eclectic ventures: a fascinating look at an alien world and mindset, staged with a stark clarity by Katie Mitchell. Ends Saturday at the Barbican Pit (071-638 8891).

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on the melodic riches in a revival of *Annie Get Your Gun*

Heads down for a vintage singalong

All right, the show has a hero who will strike all modern women, and most up-to-date men, as a creep, a weaking and a bad loser. Moreover, this revival could profitably be coarser and less eager to charm. But what about the songs? These days we are grateful if one tuneful number penetrates the parts behind the lobes. Thanks to the great Irving Berlin, I came out of *Annie Get Your Gun* with five or six ying for supremacy over my personal carwaves, and my drums are still sorting out the gorgeous cacophony they left behind at the Prince of Wales Theatre.

The moral of the musical belongs very much to the early Doris Day era. It is that while you can't get a man with a gun, you may win his heart by pretending to be second-best. To be fair to Annie Oakley, she pluckily resists this antique



"Do!" What Comes Naturally": Annie Oakley (Kim Criswell) in full cry, singing with children of the company

truth, at least for a time. She betters Frank Butler, the so-called world shooting champion, in a clay-pigeon contest. She rides into Buffalo Bill's circus ring on a motorbike,

foolishly expecting Frank to applaud when she exposes his inferiority by pointing every lightbulb in the place. And she is still singing "Anything You Can Do" as the two of them prepare for the final conflict.

But then Herbert and Dorothy Fields — the libretto-writing partnership — recall that nice girls do not castrate male egos. Nice girls please their men by aiming tennis balls at the net or, like Annie, consenting to use the bent gun with which well-wishers have provided her. It is hard to see why a genuinely nice girl should want a man who accepts her only after she has thrown her shooting match. It is still harder to understand how anybody could live with someone who sings that "the girl that I marry will have to be as soft and pink as a nursery," as well as "wear satin and laces

and smell of cologne". But that is how a heroine's taste masochistically ran in the Forties, when the show first appeared. Here, John Diehl — his long face and longer hair giving him the look of a whipper with spangly ears — can do little to make smug Frank more appealing. Kim Criswell, who plays Annie, is a less straightforward case. She has a beautiful voice and a knack for poignancy, and she rescues two of the quieter numbers, an aw-shucks lullaby and a mournful love song, from their relative obscurity. But when she is artlessly strutting about in a tacky smock with shot birds dangling from her waist, she seems too clean and chubby, already too near the "pink and white woman" she rightly assumes Frank to want. Roughness and toughness are

mostly missing, and with them goes a lot of the show's bite and humour.

Moreover, Roger Redfern's production signals its tone in an opening scene full of frilly ladies, sauntering gentlemen, bouncing tots, toothsome smiles and pretty primrose houses. Though the supporting performers have their moments, and there is some spirited dancing, there is never a lot of excitement or first-hand atmosphere.

But then across the footlights there comes, lyrics glittering, the richest of lullabies: "They Say It's Wonderful". "Do!" What Comes Naturally. "I Got the Sun in the Mornin'". "There's No Business Like Show Business". "Anything You Can Do". "You Can't Get a Man with a Gun". Match that, anybody? I thought not.

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سكانت الأصل

Viennese get ready to whirl

The most famous of orchestras is about to launch a daring new touring scheme. Richard Morrison met those in charge

There is room for debate about whether James Levine — artistic director of the Metropolitan Opera, New York — is a great conductor. One can argue about whether Columbia Artists Management International are the most powerful agents in the classical music world. It is not proven, not quite, that the Vienna Philharmonic is the finest orchestra on earth.

But when all three work in cahoots, the music business stands in awe. Or adopts an uneasy scepticism. "They won't bring it off. It's madness to try in a recession," says a rival agent.

Won't bring it off? Well, it is an audacious plan. Many orchestras have realised that it makes sense to repeat their concert programmes on successive nights in different towns. The Vienna Philharmonic is doing just that — except that, with the help of Columbia Artists, its "different towns" are going to be the major musical capitals of Europe.

Thus, three times a year, the orchestra will appear in Vienna, at the Festival Hall in London, and then in Paris and Berlin, all in the course of a week, with the same conductor and basically the same programme. This great scheme is codenamed "Eurocycle".

It is launched with a Festival Hall concert on Wednesday that Levine will conduct. Strangely, considering how dominant he is in America's musical life, it will be his first British concert for 15 years.

That is not all. The Vienna Philharmonic is also planning annual series in New York and Tokyo. Never before has an orchestra set out to show itself so systematically in the most important musical centres of the world. But why are the Viennese doing it? Touring the world annually is ruinously expensive.

Walter Blowsky, the general manager, agrees. "Economically, this project is not such a wonderful thing. In Germany, we can charge prices that cover all expenses. You cannot do that in London or New York: people are not used to high prices." Top price Festival Hall tickets will be £50. That seems a lot, but it is £10 cheaper than the orchestra charged when it visited London a couple of years ago.

"But," continues Blowsky, "it is essential for an orchestra of our reputation to play every season in the most important centres. Let's face it. London is a great musical capital. If an orchestra is proud of its qualities and wants to display them, it does not need to play in Toulouse."

Is this the future: a few super-orchestras competing "I hope so," says Levine, who first conducted the orchestra in 1976. "I know that recordings are disseminated widely. But audiences must also hear great orchestras live."

Of course, the scheme depends on one crucial point. Audiences will only pay the asking-rate if the quality of a Vienna Philharmonic concert is measurably higher than that of the local orchestra. Try finding a musician in the Berlin, London or New York Philharmonics who will admit that this is the case. Nevertheless, the name of the Vienna Philharmonic still has a magic, much analysed in its 150th anniversary year. How do the Viennese themselves account for that?

"We are an orchestra that puts tradition first," says Blowsky. "There is a special way of Viennese string-playing, but also there are typical instruments: the Viennese horn, very dangerous to play; the Viennese oboe,



James Levine launches the Vienna Philharmonic's series at the Festival Hall next Wednesday: his first British concert for 15 years

which sounds a bit like a baroque oboe; wider bores than elsewhere and so sound less strident. Some people say that the whole orchestra is soft in focus. But that's our tradition and that's the way it will stay."

How does this tradition get passed on? Werner Resel, the orchestra's president, points out that the orchestra can use its role performing in the pit for the Vienna State Opera as a training ground. "Young colleagues must play 150 times a year in the opera. After a season or two, it is impossible to play differently from your neighbour."

As the orchestra never recruited a young firebrand who wants to change everything? "It happens," says Blowsky, his voice tragic. Beneath the near impenetrable veneer of Viennese urbanity, it appears, passions run high when the orchestra thinks its reputation is at stake. "Six months ago the horn section got the impression that the orchestra didn't like the Viennese horn anymore. So we called a

meeting, and we all said what we didn't like about the way the horns play. But after that, there was a unanimous vote to keep the traditional instruments."

Another unique aspect is that this orchestra has never had a music director. It invites conductors to direct, but strictly as guests. "We love our conductors," says Blowsky. "But to be linked to one for concert after concert would be unimaginable."

But once these players make an agreement with a conductor, they keep it," says Levine. "I mean an emotional agreement. If they believe in a young conductor, as they believed in me, they will go with him even through his mistakes."

Surely, though, an orchestra that can boast close links with almost every towering maestro of the last 150 years, from Mahler downwards, must always be comparing the present generation with the past. "We don't," says Blowsky. "Not if we like the man on the podium. I played under Knappertsbusch, but it's useless to compare. He's dead; he's been dead for 25 years." "He's not available, as we say," quips Levine.

By no means all the interest on Wednesday will be in hearing the orchestra. British music-lovers are also curious about Levine, for in the 15 years since he was last here the bulky American has lifted the New York Met from a period of continual crisis and artistic doubt onto a plateau of solid achievement. That has been built on careful repertoire development and an unrelenting hatred for the "concept" productions that dominate in Europe.

Levine believes that, by limiting himself almost exclusively to conducting only at the Met and with the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics, he has been able to develop his ideas in more depth than if he was juggling between 20 different orchestras as a guest conductor. "I am a big Anglophile. The only reason I've been away so long is that it was impossible to get as deeply and continually involved with a London orchestra as I could in Vienna or Berlin. But God, I love London. It's good to be back."

The Vienna Philharmonic plays Brahms, Schoenberg and Debussy at the Festival Hall (071-923 8800) on Wednesday at 7.30pm

OPERA

Adult appeal and no kidding

Rodney Milnes finds the latest revival of *Hansel and Gretel* at the Coliseum as powerfully disturbing as ever

SINCE it was new five years ago, David Pountney's production of Humperdinck's children's opera has stood as one of the best stagings of what we must now learn to call English National Opera's Power House period. It works at so many levels, first and foremost as a funny, fantastical fairy-tale narrative, clearly and wittily unfolded.

There are subtexts, too, in Stefanos Lazaridis's housing-estate setting: about that long-lost postwar paradise of optimism, when parks were peopled by P.C. Dixons, lollipop men and young lovers rather than child molesters and dope dealers; about urban deprivation; about the pressures of the acquisitive society. Yet none of this is overtly stated.

Pountney is too clever for that, leaving us to draw what we want from his extraordinarily poetic vision of the work. Above all, as those bruised, bloodied and blinded children rise out of their graves at the end, we are inescapably reminded that "when a child cries out in need" the appropriate cars can remain deaf.

There is a distinct shortage of guardian angels in Bosnia today, not to mention in the country of birth of this most German of German operas. In short this thinking man's — or thinking parents' — Christmas show has lost none of its power to disturb as well as delight. The latest revival, staged by David Sulkin and in repertory until December 23, is conducted with great relish by Lionel Friend, who plainly loves and understands every note. Maybe an extra orchestral rehearsal or two would

have helped clarify textures and stage-pit balance, but Friend's fiery advocacy is pretty unanswerable.

The cast is strong. Rosa Mannion's bright, clear and musically phrased Gretel is new, in lively partnership with Ethna Robinson's lovable Just William-ish Hansel.

Both parents are new. Donald Maxwell's no-hope Father is a wonderfully sly impersonation, suggesting purposeful study of Arthur Fowler in *EastEnders*, and he projects Pountney's translation over Friend's orchestra with admirable consistency. Phyllis Cannan's Mother-Witch



Ethna Robinson (Hansel): familiar, lovable and Just William-ish

paints a heart-rending portrait of misery and frustration at first, and then catches a perfect balance between pitch-black comedy and macabre horror as she goes spectacularly mad — that is, becomes the Witch — in front of her bemused children.

Julie Gossage (Sandman) and Yvonne Barclay (Dev Fairy) are excellent.

CLASSICAL MUSIC: Stephen Pickett on performances of Monteverdi and Xenakis

Magnificat goes minimal

I hope I am not a reactionary, but I have to draw a line at Philip Pickett's minimalisation of Monteverdi's 1610 *Vespers*. He is probably right in assuming that the correct instrumentation is one to a part, and at the Queen Elizabeth Hall he made the most of the contrast between the New London Consort's excellent four-person continuo team and the lovely instrumental colours reserved for the ritornellos, the "Sonata sopra Sancta Maria" and the special effects in the great Magnificat.

But how can any musician assign that great crashing chord the word "omnes" in "Audi coelum", which in most performances comes as a wonderful piece of word painting, to a choir of solo voices, and smother it with that? Perish the musicology: where is the theatre?

Pickett's chief premise for performing the work in this way is the observation that much of the supposedly "cho-



Monteverdi: wonderful and dramatic word-painting

ral" writing is of a kind that we might expect only soloists to have handled. He equates the *Vespers* with the great madrigal collections.

But the style of writing is different in the psalm settings: if an average amateur choir can manage the music today with a special effort, why not

the average small professional choir in 1610? Even two voices to each part would have restored some of the missing drama. But the *Vespers* also contains music that is unequivocally soloistic, of course, in the gorgeous concerto-antiphons and in the wondrous episodes of the Magnificat.

Here Pickett's performance was on safer ground. Catherine Bott and Tessa Bonner (who later made a passable imitation of a choirboy in the "Sonata sopra Sancta Maria" — though a real one, or preferably several, would have been more effective) duly ravished the ear in "Pulchra es". Despite his pleasing tendency to make the most of his ornamentations, Andrew King's penetrating sound and closed vowels served "Nigra sum" less well than John Mark Ainsley's smooth, assured tenor in "Audi coelum", though they sensibly minimised the contrast when they came together for "Duo seraphim".

There were also fine contributions from the countertenors Christopher Robson and Ashley Stafford, the tenors Paul Agnew and Joseph Cornwell, and, particularly, the basses Simon Grant and Stephen Charlesworth, and Pickett's direction gave the work a pleasing momentum.

besides a rope and the trapeze, constituted the set design. Yalande Marzoff's choreography allows no compromises for the fact that neither Auzet nor Nicholas Isherwood, who sang and often howled the part of Mephistopheles, happen to be athletes.

Then there was the raw and crude energy of the music itself, of course, which both Auzet and Isherwood responded to with amazing panache and confidence. Binding all this together was the secure work of the Ensemble Vocale, cast as a Greek chorus. In the midst of all the drama their leader casually handed round the sheet music, and they grouped themselves as if for an ordinary concert.

S.P.

Aerial delights and Greek fire

What an extraordinary evening this was. Billed as Iannis Xenakis's first music-drama since *The Oresteia*, *Tales of a Faust* — given its British premiere at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival following its premiere earlier this year in Strasbourg — consists musically of a recomposition and development of pre-existing pieces, for which Didier Bétourné and Zoc Fachan have contrived scenario and libretto and Jean Louis Hourdin has staged. But in binding together the choral works *Nuits*, *A Hélière*, *Serment-Orkos*, *Knephas*, the ferocious percussion piece *Rebonds* and *Kassandra*, for baritone and percussion, Xenakis has created something typically original.

This *Faust* is a ceremony of concert, opera, dance and, in the breathtaking daring of the trapeze artist, Veronique Bétourné, who plays Marguerite in the visual centrepiece of an altogether highly energetic work, circus. Bétourné thrilled her audience with her acrobatic antics. There were no safety nets and at one point she seemed to hang from the trapeze by the tips of her toes. Cleverly Xenakis increases the tension throughout her act by supplementing the accompanying percussion cadenza

with an electronic tumult, rising to its climax after she has finished and thus preventing the possibility that dramatic continuum would be spoilt by any natural reaction of relieved applause.

Others on stage trod a path no less hazardous. The percussionist, Roland Auzet, representing *Faust* himself, charged energetically and often acrobatically around the stage in his combats with Mephistopheles, or joined him for a swing on the suspended metal circle which,

THE PEASANTS' REVOLT

ROBERT LACEY, royal author, writes exclusively this Sunday on a week that has changed the Monarchy



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MOTORING

A right to range on the wrong track?

An ancient path has become a battleground between walkers and motorised thrill-seekers. **Kevin Eason** reports from the Ridgeway

An ancient road trodden by Stone Age man will this weekend reverberate to the sound of the petrol engine and churning wheels as town dwellers test the performance of increasingly popular four-wheel-drive vehicles.

The Ridgeway is thought to be the oldest road in Europe, stretching 85 miles through some of the most beautiful countryside in England, from Hertfordshire to Wiltshire.

Along its length are traces of mankind dating back 5,000 years and beyond; there are Iron Age forts and evidence of the many battles that took place between Saxons and Vikings.

However, this weekend and every weekend, the Ridgeway is the scene of another conflict — this time between man and machine.

Ramblers complain that they take their lives in their hands every time they set out to walk the tree-lined route for bouncing along beside them is likely to be a convoy of Land-Rovers, Mitsubishi, Suzuki and other vehicles.

Apart from the noise and disturbance, these big vehicles are churning up areas of the route which are little more than a grass track.

Councils and footpath groups tried asking owners to stop using the Ridgeway on Sundays and bank holidays but with no luck. Now they are hoping that the outcome of a three-week public enquiry just ended will be a permanent ban. Even if a ban is imposed, it will come too late to save the 42-mile stretch of the so-

called "green lane" — which is open to vehicles — from another winter of being churned up. Michael F. Davies, the inspector, is not expected to report his findings until January. The transport department is then expected to take another two months to reach a decision.

The Countryside Commission says that the delay will mean the route will be deeply rutted while ramblers face another winter of trying to avoid vehicles ploughing along the muddy pathway.

The conflict between walkers and the motor vehicle in the countryside has nowhere been better highlighted than during the enquiry. The stretch from Streatley, close to the Thames, down to Overton Hill in Wiltshire, has always been open to vehicles even though the Ridgeway

is little more than a tree-lined grass track, up to 30ft wide in places.

It is a popular walk for ramblers and families out for weekend picnics who have, in the past, been used to dodging motorcyclists using specially designed "scrambling" machines. However, the remarkable growth in sales of four-wheel-drive vehicles has hastened the demand for controls on access.

Even though the new car market in Britain is in deep recession, sales of four-wheel-drive leisure vehicles have soared by 40 per cent this year. Fewer than 10,000 vehicles were sold in 1986 — this year that figure will easily top 30,000. The motor industry jokes that the nearest most of those vehicles with huge wheels and fat tyres get to driving off-road is parking on the pavement outside a wine bar.

'There is a conflict of interest among users'



Ignoring the hint to the chagrin of hikers, a four-wheel-drive vehicle uses the Ridgeway as a testing ground for the car's off-road capabilities

Many owners, however, are not content with idling around town; they want to get their vehicles splashed with mud. Unfortunately, their fun is too often at the cost of the environment. According to the commission, the fashion has spawned so many motorists who want to test their four-wheel-drives in difficult terrain that large numbers of them flock to the country-

side to bump along brideways and ancient tracks.

David Coleman, southeast regional officer for the commission, says: "These drivers like testing conditions and getting stuck in the mud, but there is a conflict of interest because they are there at the expense of the upkeep of the Ridgeway. Walkers and horse riders also find it difficult because they

have to keep avoiding vehicles which come bouncing past."

Land-Rover is acutely aware of the problems of driving off-road and issues guidance to drivers with all of its new vehicles. So does Mitsubishi with its popular Shogun series and Toyota. But all three admit that there is little they can do if drivers refuse to heed their tips.

Nick Argent, Land-Rover's press

officer, says: "We are conscious that there can be a conflict and we try to advise owners of Land-Rovers to be aware of the environment and that driving off-road does not mean speeding around the countryside recklessly. There is a sensible way of driving off-road and drivers have to be aware of where they are and what damage they may be causing otherwise they spoil not only the

countryside but the activity of off-road driving for everyone."

Until the enquiry announces its result, the choice lies with the off-landers. The Barbour jacket and green welly brigade can give up their Ridgeway rides and allow walkers to roam more freely along the path — or they can carry on and turn one of Europe's most ancient walkways into a winter quagmire.

Beware . . . driver otherwise engaged

Dotiness, daffness and downright dangerousness seem to characterise the British motorist, according to new research. An extraordinary 21 per cent of drivers admit to having had intimate physical contact with a passenger while on the move. Male drivers seem the worst offenders: 28 per cent said they had had mobile relations with women. Only 18 per cent of women admitted to the same with men.

The confessions form part of new statistics showing how hopeless the average driver is when it comes to concentrating on the road ahead. Almost two-thirds of motorists admit to taking their eyes off the road to adjust their radio, change a cassette or find a sweet and 42 per cent admit to reading a map while driving.

The findings, from the Guild of Experienced Motorists together with Welcome Break Service Areas, also dis-

pel the myth that it is only foreign motorists who gesticulate wildly when they over-

comes their driving cool. Almost half the drivers questioned say they gesticulate at fellow motorists when annoyed, 71 per cent rant obscenely while behind the wheel and half honk their horn. A braver, or more foolish, 9 per cent of motorists become so aggravated that they actually get out of their cars to reargue with other motorists. Again, men offend the most.

Three-quarters of motorists admit to driving above the legal speed limit on motorways and 14 per cent admit to going faster than 85mph.

In the report, police and motoring organisations describe even more bizarre motoring practices, such as the woman driver in the outside lane of the motorway with a mobile phone in one hand, and with the other hand making notes on a pad. Her

lonies were doing the presumably unimportant work of steering.

Police also had to speak in severe terms to an old man spotted causing a long tailback on a motorway. His right leg was in plaster and when the police made him pull over, they noticed he was operating the accelerator and brake pedals with his walking stick.

There was some encouraging news. The report found that 99 per cent of motorists do slow down in bad weather, and 86 per cent say they never ignore fatigue, pulling in for a break or refreshing drink or meal when tired.

The most popular way to combat fatigue on the move is to wind down the window (91 per cent), listen to music (87 per cent) or stop at a service station (89 per cent).

VAUGHAN FREEMAN



Sales of Minis hit an all-time high in the late sixties. It was the car to be seen in; it seemed that everyone, from Twiggy to Peter Sellers, was seen behind the wheel.

Booming sales peaked just after the release of the now classic cops 'n' robbers caper movie, *The Italian Job*. The film starred Michael Caine and the Mini Cooper S. A quarter of a century later, the car is back as a limited edition, featuring the original-style spiky paintwork.

The film adage, never work with children or animals, might well have stretched to cars on *The Italian Job* because the Coopers clearly stole the limelight. The automobile antics took the fleet of movie-star Minis through alleyways, down staircases and around the sewers of Turin. The stunt was an advertising executive's dream and helped to create the sporting classic.

"The only car people wanted after the film was the Cooper S," says John Cooper, the former motor-racing team owner who turned the mouse-like Mini into a potent sports car and rally winner.

The reincarnation of the car and its reappearance in the showroom has been the cue for the film to be shown at Rover dealerships everywhere.

The Italian Job limited edition is in reality little more than a Mini Sprite in war paint but for fans of the movie it will be a must.

Under the black bonnet stripes and behind the extra driving lights is the now-standard 1275cc A-series engine

Italian Job in the frame again



Stepping back: the new Mini evokes memories of the 1960s

good for only 50bhp and 87mph. A better choice might have been the more powerful and more suitable 63bhp Cooper engine.

The new car's white Minilite wheels and Italian flag-inspired interior are not subtle, but subtlety is not a prerequisite for a car bedecked in Italian Job stickers. You will certainly attract attention.

At a whisker under £6,000,

the Mini Italian Job Special is £700 more than the basic Mini Sprite and only £1,000 less than a new Mini Cooper. For the purist Italian Job obsessive, the Cooper, which with a few extra lights and bonnet straps could be made to look and perform like Michael Caine's very own, might be worth the extra.

VF

On course for better economy

Economy is the key for two new entries to the burgeoning four-wheel drive sector. Seven hundred miles on a tank of fuel is Land-Rover's claim for its new diesel-engined Range Rover Vogue Tdi.

Traditionally, Range Rover owners able to afford up to £40,000 for their vehicle have not been too concerned with fuel-consumption figures.

The state of the economy has changed all that and the new Vogue is poised to take advantage of the belt-tightening.

It is diesel-engined and relatively modestly priced at £27,000. Fuel consumption is better by 30 per cent around town and by 20 per cent on the motorway than its predecessor.



Range Rover Vogue Tdi: four-cylinder, 2.5-litre direct injection turbo-charged diesel engine, giving 111bhp at 4000rpm with four-wheel drive, performance 0-60mph in 17 seconds, top speed 94mph, 41mpg at 56mph, 33mpg in town and 29mpg at 75mph; price £26,783

Low cost drives the design of two new off-road vehicles.

Vaughan Freeman tests a Range Rover and Frontera

son, which used a cruder Italian-built diesel unit.

Some things have not changed. There are now many four-wheel drive vehicles that are cheaper than a Range Rover. But few, if any, challenge come anywhere near when trying to lift the Solihull car's crown for off-road capability.

The 2.5-litre, turbo-charged 200Tdi engine has been taken from Land-Rover's hugely successful Discovery. The increased sophistication is necessary, says Graham Morris, Rover Europe's managing director. Customers increas-

ingly demand diesel engines without the noise and clatter normally associated with them.

Three years ago, diesel Range Rovers accounted for only 5 per cent of the cars sold in the UK. That has since risen to 10 per cent and is expected soon to top 15 per cent.

When I tested the car, it seemed to rattle as much as most diesels first thing on a cold morning. At motorway speeds, however, I found the cabin to be a lot quieter, meaning that conversation is relaxed without the need to raise voices.

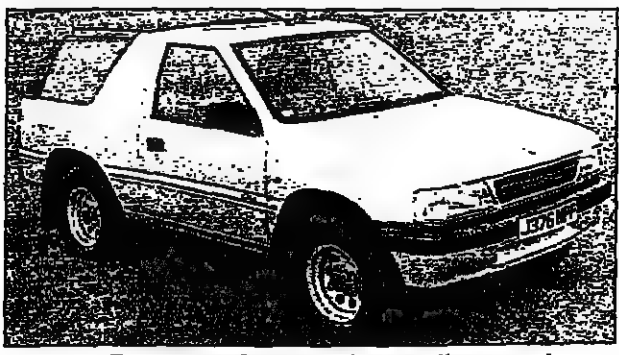
The car still seems to wander at speed and pitches and rolls a bit on undulating surfaces. The ride is comfortable and the driving position commanding. Off the road, the Range Rover Vogue Tdi comes into its own.

The diesel engine, with its high compression, gives excellent engine braking on even the most slippery hill and the unbeatable four-wheel drive allows the car to go virtually anywhere.

On the other hand, for the price of the Tdi Vogue you could have two Frontera Sports from Vauxhall and, with the change, afford a cruise in the West Indies.

Voted Value Champion 1992 by *Car Choice* magazine this month, the three-door Sport is a remarkable bargain package. The car betrays its American styling with bulging wheel arches, bright-chrome wheels and bright "look at me" paintwork.

The "muscle" looks target the car for the leisure sector rather than out-and-out off-road work and its rivals are more likely to be the Suzuki Vitara or Daihatsu Sportrak than Land-Rover offerings. The interior is spacious, even in the

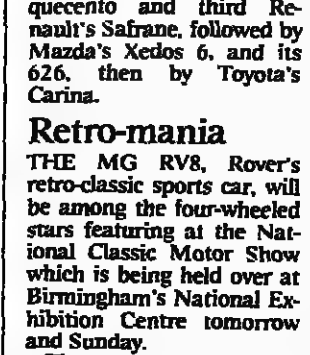


Vauxhall Frontera: four-cylinder, two-litre petrol engine, giving 115bhp at 5200rpm with four-wheel drive, performance 0-60mph in 14.3 seconds, top speed 96mph (unleaded) 23mpg around town, 33mpg at 56mph and 23mpg at 75mph; price £11,958

back, despite the lack of doors. Storage space behind the rear seats is limited. The back door is heavy because it carries the spare wheel. The door therefore has an irritating catch, which is tricky to close when hands are full.

On the road, the Sport is surprisingly car-like, quiet and comfortable. Off the road, it is not as capable as the Range Rover, and does not inspire the same confidence to tackle any obstacle. Even so, muddy and rutted tracks that would leave most vehicles stranded pose no difficulties.

The Sport is more likely to be seen with a hang-glider on the roof than a horse box behind. At £12,000, it is hard to argue with such an aggressively priced package.



Vauxhall Frontera: four-cylinder, two-litre petrol engine, giving 115bhp at 5200rpm with four-wheel drive, performance 0-60mph in 14.3 seconds, top speed 96mph (unleaded) 23mpg around town, 33mpg at 56mph and 23mpg at 75mph; price £11,958

ROADWISE

Japanese triumph

THE British-built Nissan Micra has been voted 1993 Car Of The Year. Built at Nissan's Sunderland plant, the Micra is the first Japanese-badged car to win the award, judged by motoring journalists throughout Europe.

Second was the Fiat Cincquecento and third Renault's Safrane, followed by Mazda's Xedos 6, and its 626, then by Toyota's Carina.

Retro-mania

THE MG RV8, Rover's retro-classic sports car, will be among the four-wheeled stars featuring at the National Classic Motor Show which is being held over at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre tomorrow and Sunday.

The organisers call the show "a time warp for the motoring mad" and features Rileys to Triumph Slags.

MGs to Rolls-Royces, with displays from dozens of car clubs. Entry is £6 adults, £3 children and OAPs.

Bike bonanza

LEATHER jackets will be *à la mode* at the NEC from December 1 to 6 for the Motor Cycle Show. Motor-cycle dealers hope that the lifting of car tax, which also applies to motor cycles, will help to boost sales, this year expected to reach 45,000.

French finesse

FORGET Teutonic reputations for reliability. The Adas, the German equivalent of the AA, says the Renault 19 is Europe's most reliable lower-medium-size car.

The Renault was the small saloon least likely to bother the Adas breakdown and recovery teams. It also won the coveted 1992 Golden Steering Wheel award from *Bild am Sonntag*, the prestige German magazine.

Sheepish?

YOU ARE driving along an empty country road when

your car hits a deer that leaps out in front of you. Must you report the incident to the police? The answer is No. But if you had hit a sheep, you would have to tell the constabulary.

If your grasp of motoring law is a feeble as mine, *The Pocket A to Z of Motoring Law*, covering everything from fines to offences is for you.

Free from *Chaufeurplan*, 17A Curzon Street, London W1Y 8AQ.

Gift of go

IF YOU are stuck for a Christmas gift idea for older children this year, why not give a service, suggests the Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents 12,000 dealers and garages nationwide.

Every year, 35 per cent of cars fail the roadworthiness test, which largely assesses a car's safety. The federation suggests that most failures are of cars owned by students, or young drivers in low-paid work. The gift of an MOT could prevent a breakdown, and even an accident.

INFOTECH

Clive Couldwell explains why corporations want to link their names with arts and sports sponsorship



On the ball: London Monarchs footballers with cheer leaders, sponsored by Tandem Computers



In tune: the European Community Youth Orchestra rehearses, sponsored by Digital Equipment

You have seen it on the television or in the newspapers and probably spotted it in the foyer of the theatre. Despite the recession, arts sponsorship is a booming business. And strangely, perhaps, it is often hi-tech companies that are pumping large sums of money into a variety of plays, dance and films. Such corporations believe that an involvement with the arts can influence the way in which the public, business clients and even their own employees perceive the company's image.

It is not a one-sided arrangement. In return for funding, these firms have been able to stage plays, ballet companies afford to go on tour and struggling artists, dancers and musicians receive training.

"With reduced public funding, sponsors are becoming the modern-day Medicis," argues Ian Spero, the managing director of Spero Communications, a European sponsorship and marketing communications company.

For information technology companies in particular, it is becoming difficult to create strong branding. There is often, and increasingly, little difference between products, leading to suppliers having to come

up with a different approach to their marketing. In this field, sponsorship is seen as a powerful communications tool.

Some companies see sponsorship as a way they can "borrow" certain values of the arts — quality, variety, visual appeal and imagery — which they hope will then be seen as an integral part of that company's culture. The arts can also offer excellent opportunities for corporate hospitality — an important requirement in an industry whose relationships with key customers are based on a close association.

Digital Equipment, for example, is spending £3 million on an arts sponsorship programme.

"A recession is the very time when you want to make sure you are in front of those you want to do business with," says Geoff Shingles, the chairman of Digital

Equipment. Other computer and communications companies have also caught the bug. NCR is heavily involved with theatre, symphony and literature. The NCR Book Award is the largest non-fiction award of its kind in the UK.

AT&T also sponsors theatre and through its subsidiary, the Mid-lands-based Isdel, is involved with the Young Musician of the Year and several other arts activities focused in Isdel's home area.

Sport is the other main area of sponsorship. "Sport is much more immediate for a mass consumer market while art is more relevant if you are seeking to understand the society in which you happen to be," Dominic Fry, AT&T's director of communications, says.

"It is also good for moral, making staff aware of what the

company is doing and getting to the theatre those who would not normally go."

Some hi-tech companies are convinced that sports sponsorship serves their interests better than the arts.

Like Lambert, the head of marketing for Tandem Computers, says: "The potential number of people who are really enthusiastic to go and see an opera, ballet, or a concert, is probably not as great as those who would be genuinely interested in going to see a rugby match."

"If a managing director likes golf, he will turn up for the final day of the European Open because it's a pleasure. He is relaxed and our executives and sales people can build up a relationship with him, over many hours. You cannot do that easily while watching a concert."

But whatever their preference, companies that benefit most from

sponsorship work at it. For example, Mercury Communications' sponsorship of the pop art show at London's Royal Academy included, as an integral part, the production of limited-edition Mercury telephone cards which featured visuals from the show.

The hope was that these would not only become collectors' items, but would also help differentiate Mercury cards from BT's cards.

"The sponsorship and information technology industries have compatible values. They are both innovative and young," Mr Spero says. "These companies are also inclined to adopt a more innovative approach to marketing because their businesses are at the cutting edge."

Some technology companies are also turning towards pan-European programmes. Transcending

language barriers and national differences, the arts can be seen as a perfect platform for cross-border collaboration.

Northern Telecom Arts Europe has funds of £750,000 over three years and encourages European arts companies and individual artists to collaborate on a number of co-productions, commissions, festivals and touring events. "This cuts across traditional, geographic boundaries, as do telecommunications technologies," says Vincenzo Morelli, the vice-president for Northern Telecom Europe.

Although pan-European sponsorship is, as yet, relatively untried, it may represent a considerable opportunity for communications and computer companies eager to break down international

trade barriers as well as arts organisations seeking a financially secure future.

At a time of recession in the UK, it could be a particularly tempting prize for those bold enough to have that crucial second crack at another market — the heart and wallet of the European buyer.

Strings to their bow

'Sponsors are the modern-day Medicis'

'A recession is just the time to stay ahead'

British Airways takes off with .RAM



British Airways demands the best for its passengers by constantly improving customer service and co-ordinating ground operations more effectively. Indeed, with passenger volumes set to double by the year 2000, British Airways has recognised the need for a mobile data system to give staff first hand, real-time access to information. Naturally, they saw the opportunity to combine their own business acumen and technical skills with those of RAM Mobile Data.

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But who will write the plaintive headlines?

Computers may soon be correcting text far beyond the competence of present-day spelling checkers

A new development that will extend the use of computers in publishing is likely to prompt further debate on the use of information technology. The innovation is a method of automating the process of editing of news, papers, magazines, books and other reports.

The key to such automated editing is the ability of the programs to recognise when a complicated pattern of words is a clever turn of phrase or an elegant use of English, rather than an incorrect construction or a mistake. It requires software that can be both sensitive to language and capable of what researchers refer to as intelligent text processing.

Although the recent impact of technology on publishing has been breathtaking, the jobs it replaced and transformed were essentially mechanical ones in typesetting, design and printing.

The prospect of employing the computer for full text editing is being pursued by academic research at Edinburgh University's human communications research centre (HCRC).

The unit, directed by Professor Keith Stenning, comprises a team of experimenters in computer science, artificial intelligence, psychology, the use of language, neurobiology, philosophy and education.

Under development is the Editor's Assistant, a complex computer program designed to analyse fresh passages of prose. As well as detecting and correcting routine errors of spelling and grammar, it aims to remove infelicities in syntax and style.

Prototypes of the Editor's Assistant have been produced in collaboration with two companies. The prototypes are being tested for general use by editors and publishers.

Shona Douglas, one of the leading researchers on the project, says: "The aim is to design a writing aid that helps a human editor to massage text into a house style, removing errors and ensuring consistency."

"Since word-processing is one of the largest single applications of computers, the editing system is aimed at writing and publishing in the widest sense, from newspapers and magazines to desktop



Shona Douglas: pushing ahead with automatic editing

publishing on personal computers and for company reports and documents."

Many word-processing packages include spelling checkers. There are also programs with limited abilities to examine grammar and style. They have rules and recognise anomalies. A sequence of two identical words, for example, a common error when keying in text, can be corrected. For consistency of style, programs have many rules. For example, one might detect, say, any measurement specified in kilometres and offer a converted measurement in miles or vice versa.

Complex questions of syntax and semantics are beyond most existing systems however, and the central idea behind automated editing is that publishers' style rules will be

technology would give automatic editors the ability to test and modify style rules or add new ones.

The Edinburgh researchers separate editing into two broad categories of complexity. The first covers extensive rewriting and high-level reorganisation of text. The other, and the most time-consuming, is the task of copy editing and proof reading to check for consistency with a publisher's house style and for spelling and grammatical mistakes.

The sort of house-style conventions that will be handled by the automatic editor include those on the punctuation and format of dates, numbers and numerical values, distinctive spellings and treatment of words, and the use of typesets and abbreviations for words from foreign languages.

Since no two house styles are the same, any program must have the facility to absorb variations.

Existing checkers should be able to spot a split infinitive, highlight the use of the active rather than passive voice and discard nouns formed from verbs. But existing systems would fail if asked, for example, to analyse and verify the structure of a sentence such as "Each one of the sixteen cats raised by John and Mary is on the table."

In practice, when using the Editor's Assistant to apply the style rulebook, excerpts regarded as questionable are highlighted on the screen. A panel or menu of options then appears.

For a simple query, the choice on offer may be to substitute highlighted words with suggested replacements or by something else, ignore the rule this time, or disable the rule for this text.

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Screens of protest over rules

New regulations on computer work practice are meeting opposition, reports
Matthew May

Tougher regulations for the use of computer screens announced by the health and safety commission last week have immediately been criticised by unions as not going far enough.

The rules will come into effect on January 1 to fulfil Britain's obligations to implement a European Community directive on working with display screen equipment. Key aims are to reduce eye strain, backache and particularly repetitive strain injury (RSI) among the seven million employees who now use computer screens.

Specifically the regulations require employers to:

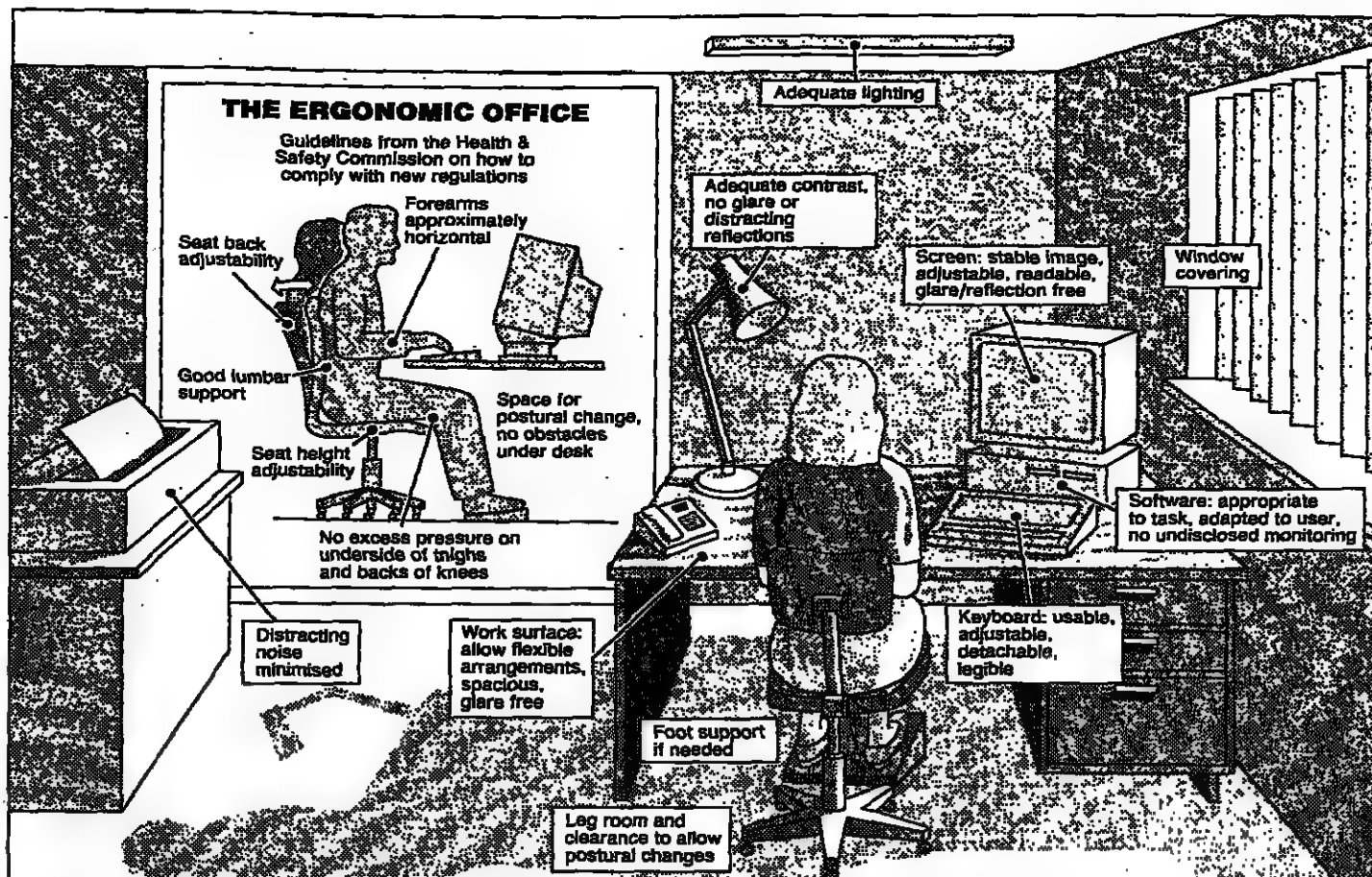
- assess workstations and reduce any risks found;
- ensure that workstations meet specified minimum requirements;
- plan display screen work so there are breaks or changes of activity;
- provide information and training for users;
- give eyesight tests to any users who request them;
- pay for special spectacles if they are required.

The new legislation will apply only where computer screens are "habitually used" by employees, which the National Union of Communications argues does not cover all employees using computer screens and risks the government being taken before the European Court of Justice. The union says: "The regulations encourage two different standards of workstation within one workplace — one for workers who use display screen equipment for a significant part of their normal work and the other for the rest of us." The union adds that without a clear definition of who is or is not a user in the eyes of the law, unscrupulous employers could be tempted to operate to the lowest standards they can.

Earlier this year, the union took BT to court over computer-related injuries. It estimates there may be 100,000 people suffering from various RSI's.

Ian Galer, the chairman of the Ergonomics Society, says: "One has to draw a line somewhere and in particular protect people who use this sort of equipment intensively." The most obvious example is high-speed data entry — typing data into a system very quickly.

The HSC, for example, recom-



mends five to ten minute breaks every hour for those doing continuous screen or keyboard work as better than a 15-minute break every two hours. Under the regulations, workstations introduced after January 1 will have to conform to them immediately, but existing ones, or those installed on or before December 31 1992, will have until the end of 1996 to comply.

Exactly what some of the regulations will require seems, however, to be very much open to interpretation. On the amount of screen flicker acceptable for a workstation, for example, the HSC recommends that "a screen which is flicker-free for 90 per cent of users should be regarded as satisfying the minimum requirement".

Taxan, a computer firm, tested some basic computer screens running the popular graphical software program Windows and says the results show that 75 per cent of users could detect flicker.

"Eight out of ten monitors in use in the UK are not sufficiently flicker-free when running Windows-type software," claims Hugh Chappell, the sales and marketing director for the company, which specialises in selling more advanced monitors. It is a view with

which some manufacturers may well disagree.

ICL is another company that is taking a particular interest in ergonomics since it took over Nokia Data, which has long produced equipment compatible with tough Swedish guidelines on the use of computer screens. ICL argues that the regulations are a missed opportunity.

"Many businesses view the new legislation as a threat as well as potentially expensive," John Arnell,

'There is no need to reduce radiation levels or to measure emissions'

ICL's personal business systems manager, says. "Using the Scandinavian example, ergonomics should be viewed as an opportunity to improve productivity. The new regulations are inadequate in their definition and leave a lot of things open to question. They do not make sufficient reference to standards."

One thing the HSC is unequivocal about is that there is no danger of harmful radiation from the current designs of computer

screens and that pregnant women do not need to stop working with them. The HSC says: "It is not necessary from the standpoint of limiting risk to human health for employers or workers to take any action to reduce radiation levels or to attempt to measure emissions — in fact, the latter is not recommended, as meaningful interpretation of data is very difficult."

"There is no need for users to be given protective devices such as anti-radiation screens."

Controversial claims that radiation from computer screens may increase the risk of miscarriages or other ill-effects are unproven. But some other European countries, such as Sweden, take the attitude that though radiation from computers has not been proven as dangerous, it cannot be shown to be totally safe. Hence they recommend the use of low-emission equipment.

Many experts are also convinced that if there is an increased incidence of miscarriages from intensive work with computer screens, it is far more likely to do with ergonomic factors, such as bad seating, than radiation.

The average cost of implementing the new regulations was originally put at £42 a workstation by

the HSC when draft guidelines were issued earlier this year. Now it is estimated that the true figure may be closer to £70, although ergonomists argue that as employers conform with the legislation, a likely reduction in the amount of sick leave taken should more than cover the cost.

Ergonomists are also convinced that any punitive action by inspectors is feared far less by many employers than the sort of court cases where employees are suing over having contracted injuries from computer work. Nearly half the claims for worker compensation in the United States are now believed to be related to ergonomics.

Mr Galer says that an increasing number of claims is being made in Britain.

"The going rate for compensation seems to be about £45,000," he adds. "If employers can show they have at least observed these new minimum requirements, it will obviously make their defence stronger."

● Copies of Display Screen Equipment Work: Guidance on Regulations are available, price £5, from HMSO or through booksellers. Copies of a shorter booklet, Working with VDUs, are available free from 0743-892346.

Dimensions and returns are both diminishing

The latest electronic gadgetry is going from the miniature to the minuscule

A tiny tape recorder, which stores up to two hours of digital stereo sound on a cassette the size of a postage stamp, is now on sale from Sony. The recorder, aimed at the dictation market, is the latest in a continuing run of developments which has seen designers squeeze more and more features into smaller and lighter consumer electronics equipment.

The new machine uses cassettes that are 1/25 the size of a conventional cassette. The sound quality of the recorder does not match the best in digital audio, but is much better than existing dictation tape systems. At £550, however, it does not come cheap.

In consumer electronics, small still seems to be beautiful. In Japan, Casio Computer has begun selling what is said to be the world's smallest television set. The E300 unit has a 1.4in screen, and weighs just 6 oz. But even this achievement may be eclipsed by work being carried out at British Telecom's laboratory at Martlesham Heath in Suffolk, where researchers are starting to develop "electronic" contact lenses with built-in microchip displays.

BT says that the contact lenses could eventually be used to watch television or virtual reality programmes, although it may be many years before such contact lenses become commercially available.

Personal computers have moved from desktop to the briefcase thanks to development of notebook and palm-sized models. Now, a development by the American computer company Hewlett-Packard may bring even smaller models.

The company has produced the world's smallest hard disc drive, which is the size of a matchbox and weighs about an ounce. It can store up to 20

megabytes of data, equivalent to 5,000 pages of typed text.

"We expect the disc to be used in portable computers, but also for other devices, such as telephones, computer games, printers and faxes," says Anna Tunnicliffe, assistant product manager of Hewlett-Packard UK's personal computing products.

However, magnetic computer discs and optical recording systems such as the compact disc, will probably be replaced one day by solid-state memory chips. Some portable computers already use memory cards, which are about the size of a credit card, to store data. But solid-state memory stores are expensive: prices range from £50 to £1,500, and the largest cards at present available can hold only about 20 megabytes of data.

Fuji has introduced digital still-video cameras in America and Japan that store images on a memory chip.

The magnetic tape company TDK has moved into the memory-card business by developing a new type of smart card.

"The memory-card market is set to grow, but don't expect to find your favourite artist's latest recording on a memory chip for a long while yet," says Martyn Williams, TDK's technical manager in the UK.

Roy Cannell, marketing manager of JVC's compact video system division, adds a word of caution on the drive for greater miniaturisation. "We have the technology to produce even smaller consumer electronics equipment, but you have got to ask how small do we really want to go?"

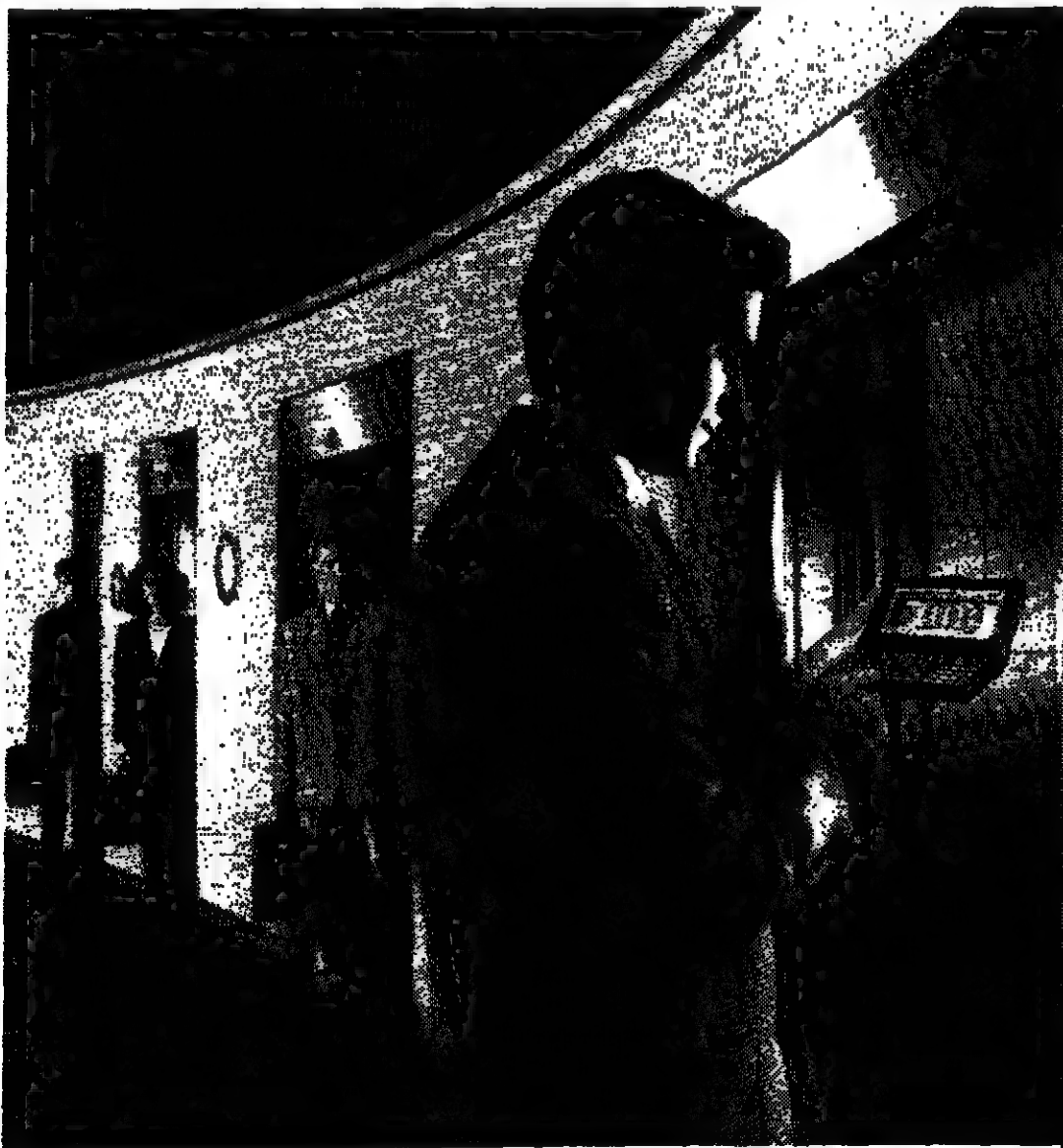
A video camera that is the size of a sugar cube might be an impressive technical feat, but it would not be so great to use."

GEORGE COLE



Shrinking sets: Casio's new pocket colour TV

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مكتبة الأمل

Barbarians make use of video aid to plan for game at Twickenham

Australians adopt no-risk policy

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIA, fittingly one more match into their hectic social round at the climax of the tour of Ireland and Wales, named yesterday their most powerful XV for the game against the Barbarians at Twickenham tomorrow. That it is not their international team is only because of the string of injuries they have suffered.

The changes from the team that beat Wales last Saturday are both in the pack, and both entirely deserved on overall tour performance. Troy Coker will play at lock — where he generally appears for Harlequins with whom he will resume after the tour — and Sam Scott-Young is on the open side flank.

On another tour both might have found a place in the first choice XV. As it is they have had to be largely content with propping up the midweek side. Since Coker is unlikely to appear again with his national side he will be keen to sign off on a high note on the ground where he helped Australia win the World Cup a year ago.

Indeed the whole team wants to write an enthusiastic autograph on the tour. "If we were going to play a heather-shearer game we would have picked a running stand-off," John Brown, the manager, said in reference to the possibility of playing David Campese out of position.

"We will play for field position and try to develop something from there. Look at the Barbarians' team: it's not one that will take the field in halter-shearer mood."

The Barbarians went through their "fairground" preparations at the Lansbury club yesterday. Part of those preparations have involved watching a video prepared by Mike Ruddick, the Swansea coach, who showed it in his club side before their win over the Australians at St Helen's.

The video offers an insight into Australian weaknesses which seem, to most outsiders, to be glossed over quite efficiently when it most matters.

That the Barbarians are as keen to win as Australia is not



Ready to fire: Campese takes a break from training at the Honourable Artillery Company ground yesterday

in doubt. "We want to enjoy ourselves but we want to win and we have devised a game plan accordingly," Will Carling, their captain, said. "It's not run at all costs. Both sides have the same problem, that it's not an international, but we would love to beat them. They're world champions, aren't they? They're at the end of a long, hard two years, but it's very difficult for a scratch side to play against a team like them. But if we click, I think we will push them very hard."

The Rugby Football Union, preparing for a second capacity crowd in a fortnight, has taken steps to avoid the problems evident on the new East stand side during England's game against South Africa. A

monitoring system has been approved and will be enforced on the day as necessary.

"If a problem were to arise and people had to leave the East stand quickly they could always go onto the pitch in a few seconds," Roger Godfrey, the RFU's administrative secretary, said.

He pointed out that bad weather on November 14 had contributed to overcrowding in the walkway under the stand because spectators were sheltering from the rain before taking their seats in the exposed bottom tier.

Australian XV: M. P. G. (13), J. L. (14), T. H. (15), D. C. (16), P. S. (17), J. S. (18), D. C. (19), P. S. (20), J. S. (21), D. C. (22), P. S. (23), J. S. (24), D. C. (25), P. S. (26), J. S. (27), D. C. (28), P. S. (29), J. S. (30), D. C. (31), P. S. (32), J. S. (33), D. C. (34), P. S. (35), J. S. (36), D. C. (37), P. S. (38), J. S. (39), D. C. (40), P. S. (41), J. S. (42), D. C. (43), P. S. (44), J. S. (45), D. C. (46), P. S. (47), J. S. (48), D. C. (49), P. S. (50), J. S. (51), D. C. (52), P. S. (53), J. S. (54), D. C. (55), P. S. (56), J. S. (57), D. C. (58), P. S. (59), J. S. (60), D. C. (61), P. S. (62), J. S. (63), D. C. (64), P. S. (65), J. S. (66), D. C. (67), P. S. (68), J. S. (69), D. C. (70), P. S. (71), J. S. (72), D. C. (73), P. S. (74), J. S. (75), D. C. (76), P. S. (77), J. S. (78), D. C. (79), P. S. (80), J. S. (81), D. C. (82), P. S. (83), J. S. (84), D. C. (85), P. S. (86), J. S. (87), D. C. (88), P. S. (89), J. S. (90), D. C. (91), P. S. (92), J. S. (93), D. C. 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Travelling Wrong to fulfil Chepstow debut promise

RICHARD Dunwoody can consolidate his lead at the top of the jockeys' table by landing a double at Newbury today on Major Bugler (12.55) and Travelling Wrong (1.25).

Travelling Wrong, a nap to win the Oxfordshire Novices' Chase, was bought during the summer by one of jumping's greatest stalwarts, Brigadier Roscoe Harvey, after he had won all of his four point-to-points in Ireland last season.

As if that was not a fine recommendation in itself, Travelling Wrong also has a splendid jumping pedigree since he is a half-brother to those good hunter chasers, Green Bay and It's The Only Way, by the successful stallion, Strong Gale.

Running for the first time for his new owner and trainer, David Nicholson, Travelling Wrong won decisively over three miles at Chepstow where, on soft ground, he accounted for the subsequent Asot winner Annio Chilone.

Faced with the choice of riding Travelling Wrong or Vicompt, De Valmont, on whom he won the Sonning Novices' Hurdle on this programme 12 months ago, Dunwoody picked the former.

Significantly, he was on Vicompt De Valmont at Wolverhampton earlier this month when he was runner-up to Auk Eye in his first race over fences.

While that was quite a promising effort, it still did not

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

compare with Travelling Wrong's performance at Chepstow.

Major Bugler, who is taken to initiate the Dunwoody double in the Freshman's Novices' Hurdle, is rated a Triumph Hurdle prospect by Toby Balding and should be all the better for his first run over timber behind Dominant Sergeant at Cheltenham 12 days ago.

With Nicholson's team going well from their new base, For The Grain is fancied to complete a stable double and make a winning seasonal reappearance under Jamie Osborne in the Jacky Point Handicap Chase.

The eight-year-old won twice last season - over two miles at Cheltenham and over

today's distance of two and a half miles at Asot in January. Good Tonic, successful over today's course and distance in March, could turn out to be the main threat to For The Grain as he will undoubtedly grip tighter for his first run of the season at Huntingdon where he finished fifth behind Emree-H.



Dunwoody: fine chance of Newbury double

Aliysa judgment reserved

JUDGMENT was reserved yesterday at the end of the Court of Appeal hearing involving the disqualification of Aliysa from the 1989 Oaks.

At the close of the hearing, which lasted four days, the judges offered no indication when they would give their ruling.

The Aga Khan has sought to make the regulatory decisions of the Jockey Club open

to review in the courts. In what is seen as a test case affecting the governing bodies of other sports, the Aga asked for the Jockey Club's decision to disqualify Aliysa to be overturned.

An earlier attempt by the Aga was foiled in July of last year when the High Court held that the Jockey Club's decisions were not susceptible to judicial review.

Nikitas, trained locally by Avery Whitefield, looks the safest bet to win the Bampton Handicap Hurdle following his admirable victory on similar ground at Haydock a fortnight ago.

On that occasion, Nikitas finished second and a half lengths ahead of Kaytak, who started favourite after a promising first run behind Mighty Mogul over today's course and distance.

While conceding that a mistake at the last flight did not help Kaytak's cause that day, they were meeting at level weights and now Kaytak must give Nikitas 5lb.

Piper's Son would be hard to ignore in the Sonning Novices' Hurdle if he ran as well as he did at Aintree in the spring when fourth to Barton Bank.

However, as that form was well in advance of anything else he has achieved, I now prefer Dragons Den, from Simon Sherwood's in-form yard.

Dragons Den showed that he possesses the requisite stamina when making all the running to win at Uttoxeter. Finally, Better Times Ahead, who has been placed this season over hurdles in races won by horses of the calibre of Burroughs and Mighty Mogul, is taken to make a smooth transition to steeplechasing by winning the Reach Recruit Novices' Chase at Bangor, where Danny Connors can defy top weight in the Builder Centre Handicap Chase.

Revelley star earns step up in class

CAB On Target continued his education with an emphatic victory at odds of 7-1 on in the Bingham Novices' Chase at Nottingham yesterday.

Following up a ten-length debut win over fences at Ayr, Mary Revelley's highly-rated six-year-old was always outclassing his rivals and was eased right down at the line to beat Jeffery by four lengths.

Peter Niven reported that the Strong Gale gelding gave himself a fright at the second fence, when appearing to take off a stride too soon, but otherwise jumped like a buck.

He is now on target for a mouth-watering clash with last Saturday's impressive Alwayne winner Dawson City at Westbury tomorrow week.

Warren Marston was fined £315 for taking the wrong course and forfeiting probable victory on Alan Ball in the Bulwell Handicap Chase.

The 2-1 joint-favourite had just taken the measure of market rival Clares Own six fences from home when he went the wrong side of the course division at the end of the back straight.

The Mrs gave Seamus Mullins his first winner as a trainer in the Rainworth Novices' Hurdle, which was won by a local horse in July, has a team of 12 near Andover.

Kiveton Tycoon, rated Triumph Hurdle material by Jeremy Glover, found Only A Rose a tough opponent in the Merit Hurdle but proved up to the task, quickening from the last to win by four lengths.

Dwyer must have fitness test before riding Jodami

BY MICHAEL SEELY

DESPITE being stiff and bruised after taking a crashing fall from Westwell Boy at Nottingham yesterday, Mark Dwyer still expects to be passed fit to ride the strongly-fancied Jodami in tomorrow's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury.

After damaging his ribs in a tumble from Uncle Ernie at Huntingdon on Tuesday, the Yorkshire-based jockey took a day's rest before going to Nottingham.

"I am not going to Bangor tomorrow now, just as a precaution," Dwyer said. "I've got to pass the doctor before I'm allowed to ride, but it's only a formality. Perhaps the week will end on a good note. Jodami has so good a chance as anything in the race."

As expected, Cool Ground, last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, who fell at Aintree on Saturday, will now miss the first important long-distance chase of the season.

Hills reported steady support yesterday for Twin Oaks whose odds were reduced from 25-1 to 16-1 after Gordon Richards's announcement that the Haydock specialist would be sent south.

"He's now a certain runner," the trainer said. "Neale Doughty will ride him instead of going to Newcastle for Jinx Jack."

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"I've got to talk to the owner about it," Barons said. "We want to run but my horses haven't been right and Topham Bay's blood picture was wrong after his recent race."

Amazingly, despite the heavy rain and the fact that the nearby river Lambourn is carrying water for the first time for two years, Richard Pridham, the clerk of the course at Newbury, reported the ground is still reasonable.

"We only had half an inch last night," he said. "It's good to soft for the last four furlongs but soft elsewhere. If it rains tonight it will be soft everywhere."

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Balding: keeping Cool Ground for Chepstow

"We've decided to keep him for the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow next Saturday," Toby Balding said. "Although he's got 11st 13lb there it doesn't look nearly such a competitive race. Apparently, Tipping Tim, who looks well handicapped, is being kept in reserve for the A F Budge Gold Cup at Cheltenham."

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BBC1

- 6.00 **Cartoon** (56911)
 6.30 **Breakfast News** begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Laurie Mayer and Tanya Silem present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news, and travel bulletins (56705379)
 9.05 **Kilroy** (56705379) Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (2077159) 9.45 **Ross King** (Game show. Today's guest is comedian Ted Rogers (5407737))
 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (7396244) 10.05 **Playdays**. For the very young (1) (5) (5695553)
 10.30 **Good Morning**... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Today's edition includes a celebrity leisure guide, weekend shopping ideas and an advice phone-in (1). With News (5695553) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (42147244)
 12.15 **Pebble Mill**. Music and entertainment presented by Alan Titchmarsh (5) (5695553) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (7396244)
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hulton. (5695553) (5695553)
 1.30 **Neighbours**. (5695553) (42167244) 1.50 **Eldorado** (1). (5695553) (73794640)
 2.20 **Going for Gold**. The eloquent Henry Kelly with another round of the general knowledge quiz with European contestants (5) (25507118)
 2.45 **The Flying Doctors**. Underminding medical drama set in the Australian outback (5695553)
 3.30 **Droopy Double Bill**. Cartoons (436027) 3.45 **Bump** (1) (1270435)
 3.50 **Superheroes**. Nicole Davies and Phil Hawthorn continue their exploration of the human body (4345534) 4.10 **Chips and the Movies** (5) (4125155) 4.35 **Record Breakers** presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. Includes a guest appearance by Tom Jones. (5695553) (5695553)
 5.00 **Newsround** (2405379) 5.05 **Byker Grove**. Drama series set in a North East youth centre. (5695553) (5695553)
 5.35 **Neighbours** (1). (5695553) (42167244) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (5695553) (5695553)
 6.30 **Regional News** (331). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 **Elvis**. (5695553) (7027)
 7.30 **Don't Walk Up**. Gentle comedy series by George Layton starring Nigel Havers and Tony Britton as father and son medics. Tom is fearful of attending a family party and bumping in to his former wife (Jane How), who has just emerged from the break-up of her seventh second marriage (5695553) (5) (5695553) Northern Ireland: Spots
 8.00 **Challenge Anneka**. In the last of the series the hyperactive Miss Rice once again attempts the impossible — to equip a medical centre, provide electricity and drill a bore hole at a refugee camp in Malawi, all in a matter of days. (5695553) (724)
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (5695553) Regional news and weather (1155)



Police enquiries: Geogreson, Pearson, Redmond (5.30pm)

- 9.30 **Between the Lines**. Tough police drama starring Neil Pearson, this week investigating a police superintendent caught karp-crawling in King's Cross, and discovering murder, blackmail, pornography and perhaps police corruption at the highest level. With Tom Geogreson and Shihan Richmond. (5) (717377)
 10.20 **Terry Wogan's Friday Night**. The guests include American comic actor Leslie Nielsen, comedian Arthur Smith, Mike Minogue and publisher George Steinhauser. Music is provided by Shai (5) (5695553) Northern Ireland: Anderson on the Box
 11.00 **Snooker**. The Royal Liver Assurance UK championship (5695553) Northern Ireland: 11.10 Terry Wogan 11.50 **Cagney and Lacey**
 12.00 **Film: The Last Command** (1956) starring Anthony Quinn, Alain Delon and George Segal. Crisp action drama set in Algeria during the country's struggle for independence from France. Directed by Mark Robson (23381022). Northern Ireland: 12.35am-1.35 **Snooker**
 2.05am **Weather** (5341138)

BBC2

- 8.00 **Breakfast News** (4150621)
 8.15 **Westminster** (5411176)
 8.00 **Daytime on Two**. Educational programmes
 9.00 **News** and weather followed by **Words and Pictures** (1) (5) (5624108)
 2.15 **Sport on Friday** introduced by Helen Rolston. Snooker: semi-final action in the Royal Liver Assurance UK championship. Football: a review of the week's European club competitions; Rugby Union: a preview of tomorrow's game at Twickenham between the Barbarians and the world champions Australia. Includes **News** (5695553) and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (2277973)
 4.30 **Behind the Headlines**. Shyma Perera is joined by American television soap expert Barbara Bower to discuss the BBC's **Elvis** (735)
 5.00 **Della Smith's Christmas**. The cook prepares home-made mince pies and apple, nut and mince pie strudel; Alice King suggests red wines to accompany game dishes (1) (5695553)
 5.30 **Top Gear**. Includes road tests of the Escort Cosworth and the Vauxhall Calibra turbo; and a review of the Lombard RAC rally (1) (5) (468)
 6.00 **Stingray**. Classic 1960s puppet adventure series (2212833)
 6.25 **The Man From Uncle**. Spool secret agent series starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum. This week, after Napoleon Solo narrowly escaped death from an oil tanker from the sky, the UNCLE agents find themselves pitted against the evil Emory Partridge (George Sanders) (1). (5695553) (25592)
 7.15 **Doctor Who**. Episode two of the five part adventure starring Jon Pertwee as the time-travelling scientist (1) (155176)
 7.40 **What the Papers Say**. John Sweeney of *The Observer* looks at how the Press has covered the week's news (5695553)
 8.00 **Public Eye**. Violent Treatment. Phil Parry investigates domestic violence and whether locking up the offenders will change their attitude towards their partners (1089)
 8.30 **The Living Garden**. The second of five programmes looking at how gardens grow. Presented by Gail Milner. (5695553)
 9.00 **The Face of Tutankhamun**. Part two of the series tracing how archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the world's richest tomb (5695553)
 9.30 **Art treasures in Cambridge**. Sister Wendy Beckett (5.30pm)
 9.50 **Sister Wendy's Odyssey**. Sister Wendy Beckett continues her hunt for Britain's art treasures and visits Cambridge where among the paintings she discovers is Titian's dramatic portrayal of rape. (5695553) (501447)
 10.00 **Are I Got News For You**. Topical comedy quiz show hosted by Angus Deayton. This week Ian Hislop and Paul Merton are joined by Chris Tarrant and actress Meera Syal (5) (17737)
 10.30 **Newsnight** presented by Peter Snow (515379)
 11.15 **Weather** (562008)
 11.20 **Film: Two Men in Manhattan** (1958, b/w). The French Film Classics season continues with a homage to Hollywood gangster movies written, starring and directed by Jean-Pierre Melville. When a French delegate to the UN discovers a journalist and a photographer go in search for him. In English and French with English subtitles (515377)
 12.00am **Behind the Headlines**. A repeat of the programme shown at 4.30pm (2520759). Ends at 1.15

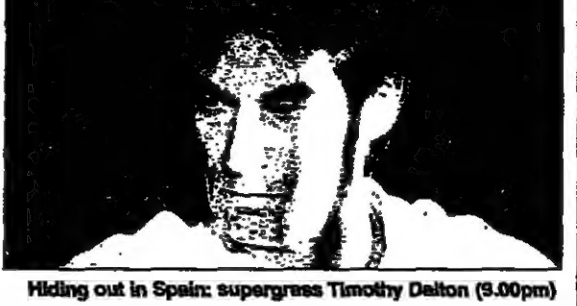


Art treasures in Cambridge: Sister Wendy Beckett (5.30pm)

- Video and the Video PlusCode
 The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus™ handset. VideoPlus™ can be used with most video sets. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details on VideoPlus™, contact your local video hire shop or write to VideoPlus™, Acorn Ltd, 15 Lady House, Haverhill Road, London SW11 3TW. VideoPlus™, Acorn Ltd and Video Recorder are trademarks of General Marketing Ltd.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** (9181440) 9.25 **Keynotes**. Music game show hosted by Alastair Dunn (4810334) 9.55 **Thames News** (5675973)
 10.00 **The News**... The Pledge... Discussion programme (5630763)
 10.30 **Thames Morning**. Magazine series (5630763)
 12.10 **Rainbow**. Learning for the very young (1) (2473331)
 12.30 **ITN Lunchtime News** with Soma Ruseher and Nicholas Owen. (Oracle) Weather (5622252) 1.05 **Thames News** (5811795)
 1.15 **Home and Away**. Australian family drama series (473331)
 1.45 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama series (1) (252021)
 2.15 **Highway to Heaven**. Jonathan a Victorian war veteran and an adopted teenager cope with their emotional problems (4522468)
 3.10 **ITN News** headlines (5854540) 3.15 **Thames News** headlines (563311) 3.20 **GP**. Australian medical drama (5240350)
 3.50 **Soapy Doo** (1) (4331331) 4.05 **Asato Farm** (5) (5829621) 4.15 **Victor and Hugo** (1) (433334) 4.30 **Knightmare** (257089) 5.05 **Cartoon** (1) (5004338)
 5.15 **LWT News** and weather (2433292)
 5.40 **Early Evening News** with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (389485)
 6.00 **Home and Away** (1). (Oracle) (447)
 6.30 **Park High**. Fly-on-the-wall documentary series about life in a suburban comprehensive school (1) (517)
 7.00 **Through the Keyhole**.
 ● CHOICE: Viewers of a certain age will remember David Frost and Willie Rushton as stalwarts of the abrasive team of young seans who poured weekly scorn upon the then Macmillan government. That, 30 years on, Frost and Rushton are now stalwarts of the innocuous panel show probably says much about how people mellow with age. Rushton has retained a mischievous wit but Frost is definitely not the relentless inquisitor who had the likes of Emil Cioran and former President Nixon reeling and squirming. As for *Through the Keyhole*, it is a simple idea that easily fills an understanding half hour and will run for as long as celebrities are willing to allow the cameras into their bedrooms and bathrooms. Alan Coren, who is too quick for this sort of show, makes up tonight's panel with Rushton and Patsy Cowell. (Oracle) (5) (2195)
 7.30 **Coronation Street** (Oracle) (911)
 8.00 **Gone to Seed**. Tony Grounds's comedy drama sequel to his *Gone to the Dogs*. (Oracle) (5) (5640)
 9.00 **Framed**.
 ● CHOICE: Lynda La Plante's four-part thriller is thankfully free of the brutality which scarred her last serial, *Conners*, but has yet to show the verve and originality of *Midwinter* and *Prime Suspect*. Dark and brooding, as befits an author who played Heathcliff before becoming James Bond, Timothy Dalton stars as Eddie Meyers, a police informer who has escaped custody and done a bunk to Spain. There he happens to be spotted by Jackson (David Morrissey), a young detective on holiday with his wife and kids. The upshot is that Eddie is extradited to England to face the wrath of a rough, chain-smoking DCI, portrayed by the admirable Timothy West. The narrative moves briskly, with the emphasis on short, sharp scenes, but so far this is a conventional cops-and-villains story which may have to fight to win viewers from BBC's *Between the Lines*. (Oracle) (2176)
 10.00 **News at Ten** with Ian McDonald. (Oracle) Weather (573699)
 10.35 **LWT News** (533640)
 10.40 **The London Programme**. Trevor Phillips examines the controversy over the new British Library and interviews heritage secretary Peter Brooke (573331)
 11.10 **In Bed with Me**. The second of two comedy shows starring Bob Miller. Music is provided by Heavens (542352)
 11.40 **Dead Midnight**. Phone-in entertainment (572035)
 1.05am **Bob Downe Under**. Series about Australian life (4737307)
 2.05 **Close Shave**. A pilot episode of a magazine show aimed at males over the age of consent (5020138)
 3.05 **Cinema Attractions**. Movie news from the United States (41160770)
 3.35 **Raw Power**. Rock music magazine (5) (5626008)
 4.30 **News at Ten** (5695553) 4.50 **Major League** action (43062)
 5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Rowan (53041). Ends at 6.00



Hiding out in Spain: superegg Timothy Dalton (5.00pm)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Cartoons** (10621)
 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (52640)
 9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (14640)
 9.30 **Schools** (555553)
 12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Anne Perkins (33896)
 12.30 **Sesame Street**. Early learning series (22973) 1.30 **The Herbs** (52371718) 1.45 **The Changers** (1) (5236973)
 2.00 **Film: A Woman's Face** (1941, b/w).
 ● CHOICE: The face belongs to Joan Crawford and it is disfigured by a childhood scar. Unable to come to terms with this blamish, she turns to a life of crime. This is the cue for one of the best Crawford vehicles, a melodrama-cum-suspense thriller, crisply told in flashback by the director George Cukor. Conned Verdi co-stars as an unscrupulous schemer who tries to draw the embittered Crawford into a plot to murder his nephew so that he can inherit the family fortune. *A Woman's Face* was based on a French play, set in Sweden and first filmed there with Ingrid Bergman. Cukor's film, scripted by Christopher Isherwood and others, retains the Swedish setting and is full of imaginative touches. Crawford's intense performance is the perfect centrepiece (5089)
 4.00 **Travelog**. Reports from Sri Lanka and the Scottish Borders (1) (5) (540)
 4.30 **Fifteen to One**. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (5) (824)
 5.00 **Cutting Edge**. A repeat of Monday's programme about a mother's search for her two sons abducted by her estranged husband (5) (9008)
 6.00 **Blossom**. Comedy series about a teenage girl in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (5) (319)
 6.30 **Happy Days**. American comedy series. (Teletext) (569)
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Dermot Murnaghan and Fiona Murch. (Teletext) Weather (258908) 7.50 **First Reaction** Toby Young on the film *Blade Runner* — the Director's Cut (20821)
 8.00 **Brookside**. Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (5) (5485)



Born-again: Paddy Shevlin is on the road to Glory (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **Short Stories: The Eccentric of Wood Green**.
 ● CHOICE: Paddy Shevlin is a former property speculator and nightclub owner who became a born-again Christian and runs the London Eastside Fellowship. Operating from a house in Wood Green, he aims to reach out to the homeless and takes them off the streets. Convinced that many of his clients are possessed by demons, Paddy also carries out exorcisms. At the core of the film, however, is an eventful trip by Paddy and his team to a "Glory Meeting" in Nottingham. Their transport is a 35-year-old van with unreliable tyres. When one blows and a spare is unexpectedly found, it is a miracle from God. When another bursts it is the work of the Devil. The film proceeds in similarly jocular tone, leaving us uncertain how seriously we are meant to take this latter-day Good Samaritan (5092)
 9.00 **Spirit of Trees**. The sixth of Dick Warner's eight-part series features strange and rare trees. (Teletext) (4805)
 9.30 **Cheers**. Sam breaks his golden rule never to date a married woman and has to deal with a jealous husband (1) (38718)
 10.00 **Nurses**. Black comedy set in a Miami hospital (5) (83355)
 10.30 **Chris Anderson Talks Back** with Neil Kinnock, Dudley Moore and Rory Bremner (5) (51935)
 11.10 **The Word**. Youth pop and style magazine (5) (155000)
 12.00 **Mojo Working**. The Jimi Hendrix story (5) (5309119)
 12.40 **Film: Thunder Rock** (1942, b/w) starring Michael Redgrave. Drama about a disillusioned writer who takes a job as a lighthouse keeper when he fails to convince people of the dangers of fascism before the second world war. Directed by Roy Boulton (565312)
 2.40 **Twilight Zone**. Persuasion or Persuasion Unknown (b/w). A tale of the supernatural starring Richard Long (533525)
 3.10 **American Football: Play Action**. Weekend preview (74573082). Ends at 3.35

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except 2.15-3.10 The Guiding Hand (5695553) 3.30-3.50 The Young Doctors (5695553) 5.10-5.40 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 5.45-5.55 The Young Doctors (5695553) 5.55-6.00 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 6.00-6.10 The Young Doctors (5695553) 6.10-6.20 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 6.20-6.30 The Young Doctors (5695553) 6.30-6.40 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 6.40-6.50 The Young Doctors (5695553) 6.50-7.00 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 7.00-7.10 The Young Doctors (5695553) 7.10-7.20 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 7.20-7.30 The Young Doctors (5695553) 7.30-7.40 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 7.40-7.50 The Young Doctors (5695553) 7.50-8.00 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 8.00-8.10 The Young Doctors (5695553) 8.10-8.20 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 8.20-8.30 The Young Doctors (5695553) 8.30-8.40 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 8.40-8.50 The Young Doctors (5695553) 8.50-9.00 News. Movies. Music. (5695553) 9.00-9.10 The Young Doctors (5695553) 9.10-9.20 News. Movies. Music. 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Leeds make a surprise decision to sell their popular French international to Manchester United

Ferguson swoops swiftly to capture Cantona

By IAN ROSS

ERIC Cantona's brief but memorable stay at Leeds United ended abruptly yesterday with a hastily arranged and unexpected transfer to Manchester United.

The French international, who helped Leeds win the first division championship last season, made the short journey from Elland Road to Old Trafford yesterday morning and emerged with a three-year contract following talks with Alex Ferguson, the United manager, and Martin Edwards, the club chairman.

If Cantona, 26, passes a medical this morning and can be registered with the Football League before noon, he is likely to make his debut in the Premier League fixture against Arsenal at Highbury tomorrow.

Cantona's move was arranged late on Wednesday

when Ferguson, perhaps more in hope than expectation, contacted Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, to enquire about him.

Ferguson later admitted to being surprised to find Cantona was available but he acted with speed. He promptly asked for and received permission from his board of directors for the fee — thought to be £1.2 million — and then opened negotiations with the player.

The deal comes just one week after Ferguson's second attempt to sign David Hirst, the Sheffield Wednesday and England forward, had ended in failure.

Ferguson, seeking a goalscorer of proven ability to help sustain United's challenge for a first championship success in more than two decades, had offered £3.5 million for Hirst only to be denied permission to approach him. Cantona, a £900,000 buy

from Nîmes in February, has scored 11 goals in 19 matches this season and was always popular with the Elland Road crowd. It was clear, however, that his working relationship with Wilkinson was placed under considerable strain after his omission from the side that beat Arsenal 3-0 on Saturday.

At the time, the official reason for Cantona's absence was given as "injury problems" but it is now known that he had declared himself fit and available before kick-off

complete the signing. "This deal came out of the blue," he said. "I was talking to Howard and I popped the question. It all went very quickly from there."

"He is the goalscorer we have been looking for. He is a very exciting footballer, the type Manchester United fans will love. He is one of the best entertainers in the country."

Cantona arrived in English football in late January when he was invited for trials at Sheffield Wednesday only a few weeks after he had publicly announced his retirement from football.

A controversial figure in his native country, Cantona — then playing for Nîmes — had received a lengthy suspension for arguing too forcibly with a disciplinary commission that debated his on-field behaviour.

After training with Wednesday's senior squad for four

days, Cantona walked out of Hillsborough. Just 24 hours later, Wilkinson announced that he had agreed to take Cantona on loan until the end of the season.

While he was unable to command a regular first-team place at Leeds, he made a significant contribution — as a frequently introduced substitute — in Leeds's run-in to the league championship. Their run brought the title to Elland Road for the first time since 1973-4 and denied Manchester United their first championship since 1967.

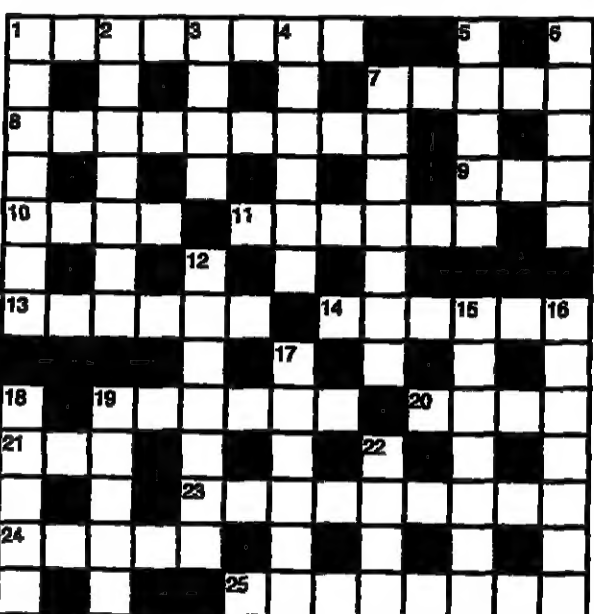
After scoring three goals in the Charity Shield win over Liverpool at Wembley in August, Cantona finally laid claim to a place in the Yorkshire club's first team and scored a hat-trick in the 5-0 defeat of Tottenham Hotspur at Elland Road.

EA Cup enquiry, page 38



Controversial figure: Cantona felt disillusioned

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2956



- ACROSS
- 1 Make easier (8)
 - 7 Short and broad (5)
 - 8 Demanding (9)
 - 9 Aircraftman (3)
 - 10 Funeral flower (4)
 - 11 Reply (6)
 - 13 Indian court (6)
 - 14 Volcano pit (6)
 - 19 Get by (4,2)
 - 20 German count (4)
 - 21 Regret (3)
 - 23 Din (9)
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- 1 Lumbered (7)
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 - 4 Articulate (6)
 - 5 Peculiar (5)
 - 6 Spike (5)
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 - 12 Wanting (7)
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 - 18 Fox tail (5)
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 - 22 Sagacious (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2955

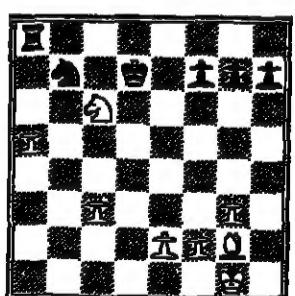
ACROSS: 7 Camp 8 Academic 9 Sparks 10 Dollar 11 Hind 12 Biscuit 13 Pediment 17 Raft 18 Graves 21 Recent 22 Signpost 23 Path

DOWN: 1 Samphire 2 Spared 3 Passable 4 Bard 5 Reflex 6 Lira 13 Saturated 14 Affinity 16 Invent 17 Recipe 19 Ruin 20 Slow

WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KNEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Wells — Priehoda, Cappelle-la-Grande 1992. White is the exchange (rook for bishop or knight) down, but has two pawns and a dangerous-looking lineup on the h1-a8 diagonal. How did he make the most of this?



Solution on page 36

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs), telephone Alcom Ltd on 081 852 4375 (24 hours) or call CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

- ADEEM
- a. To guess wrong
 - b. A voter in Shetland
 - c. To revoke a legacy
- LIJES
- a. White violets
 - b. Lavatories
 - c. Syphilis

Answers on page 36

- BUNCO
- a. A swindle
 - b. Nonsense, rubbish
 - c. A bun company or bakery
- TALLITH
- a. An Indian language and caste
 - b. A shawl
 - c. Pretty tall with a lip

British sailor is found drowned

By KEITH WHEATLEY

NIGEL Burgess, one of two British yachtsmen participating in the Vendée Globe solo round-the-world race, has been drowned. French naval divers found his body 50 miles west of Cape Finisterre, off northern Spain, yesterday.

An electronic beacon strapped to the body led search helicopters to Burgess. He was wearing a survival suit, which should have kept the wearer alive through up to 20 hours immersion. However, reports from the scene spoke of Burgess having received a massive blow to the head — probably from the yacht's boom.

Distress signals were broadcast from the 60ft monohull, Nigel Burgess Yachtbrokers — named after his Monaco-based company — late on Wednesday. The weather was atrocious, with 55mph winds and a huge swell.

Four other competitors had suffered serious damage since the start of the race at midday on Sunday. Mike Plant, of the United States, is missing, believed drowned, after his yacht, Coyote, capsized on its way for the race start.

José de Ugarte, of Spain, aboard Euskadi Europa '93, was first to reach the location of the Burgess mayday. He found the yacht badly damaged forward of the mast and flooded but still afloat. A liferaft was floating nearby.

It was not until noon yesterday that helicopters from the French navy ship, Monge, found the floating body, with a lifejacket on, some miles from the yacht.

Burgess, 49, who has a wife and two teenage children, was a highly experienced sailor. He had raced across the Atlantic three times single-handed, the first in 1968 in his own 28ft sloop, and possessed a merchant navy master's ticket. It is unthinkable that Burgess would simply leap into the sea while his yacht was sailable.

The most credible explanation is that the boom smashed into him, knocking him overboard while he was trying to cope with the damage.

After ten years as a professional deck officer, Burgess was aware of all the arguments against single-handed racing. "It's hypocritical of me to even be doing this because I know all the reasons why solo racing is dangerous," he said before competing in the



Nigel Burgess aboard his yacht before starting the Globe race on Sunday

single-handed transatlantic race this summer.

His motivations were twofold. First, Burgess said it was always difficult to find crew with enough competence, motivation and spare time to match his own. Second, he loved sailing fast and the advanced water-ballasted design of the yachts in the Vendée Globe made them the quickest monohulls around.

His yacht, under its original name, Charente Maritime TBS, competed in the first Vendée Globe three years ago

and finished fifth. Burgess saw the start of that race from the shores of Les Sables d'Olonne and was determined to compete in the event next time around.

He paid about £250,000 for the 60ft yacht and spent about another £100,000 on preparing her for the event, which he saw as the ultimate challenge in single-handed racing.

"A boat of this size and type is always going so fast that you're continually sailing close to the edge," Burgess said after a week tuning the yacht off Plymouth.

Burgess was taking close to a year away from the brokerage — unpaid — to fulfil this ambition. "This is like another job. It's something you can't play at. It needs to be done full-time and with professionalism," he had said.

Organisers of the race in Paris were putting on a brave face last night. One death and one presumed, as well as six boats turning back for repairs out of a total of 14 is grim news after just a week of racing. But a senior official, Philippe Jeantot, said: "There is no question of calling it off."

Desert Orchid able to take a walk as greetings flood in

By MICHAEL SEELY

DESERET Orchid, the nation's best-loved racehorse, yesterday became the nation's best-guarded patient as he stood in intensive care at Newmarket, recovering from Wednesday's operation for a twisted gut.

A tight security net was drawn around the surgical unit of Rossdale & Partners, situated between the High Street and St Mary's Church. Flowers, chocolates and get-well cards had flooded in throughout the day.

"It's extraordinary," Tim Greet, one of the two veterinary surgeons who performed the operation on the 13-year-old grey, said. "The interest is quite unprecedented."

Earlier, Greet, Andy Bathe, the other vet, and Richard Burridge, the majority shareholder, had given a press conference to hordes of television crews, photographers and journalists at the practice's diagnostic unit in the nearby village of Exning.

Describing Desert Orchid's condition, Greet said: "He's standing up, he's bright and comparatively pain-free. He's now got about an even-money chance of being all right. But the next two or three days will be critical. If he gets through that all right, he should be on the road to recovery."

About ten feet of the 70-80ft of small intestine have been

removed and the horse is now standing in a heated stall, being intravenously fed, but taking nothing by mouth.

"It's been a very serious problem, from which 'not many horses recover,'" Greet said. "He was well enough to take a short walk this morning. He was allowed to have a mouthful of grass to stimulate his appetite and keep up his interest in life."

The grey's digestive system is starting to work again. "He is passing droppings well, but his small intestine is not yet functioning properly," Greet added. "That's one problem and the other concerns the toxins that have built up."

Colic in horses takes several forms, the most severe being a twisted gut. As the gut twists, the blood supply is cut off, causing a build-up of bacterial poison, dead tissue and internal gas. Surgery is the only remedy and there is only a one-in-four chance of recovery.

Burridge, who spent yesterday keeping an anxious vigil, said: "We've been blessed with extreme good fortune to have this remarkable horse, who has been so healthy throughout his career. We're all now praying that he'll survive this battle as he's survived so many in the past."

Dwyer check, page 37

Parrott has peaked at the perfect time

JOHN Parrott continued his untroubled progress towards a successful defence of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom snooker championship with a 9-3 quarter-final victory over Joe Swail in Preston yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

He had combined watertight safety with clinical break-building while moving to a 6-2 lead on Wednesday and when play resumed, Swail found it impossible to prevent his opponent from maintaining this high quality of play.

A break of 35 early in the ninth frame proved sufficient for Parrott to increase his lead before Swail, who won the Irish professional championship in May, kept his slim hopes alive with a decisive clearance to pink for 7-3.

Parrott, after winning two tournaments already this sea-

son and reaching the final of another, is playing with more authority than ever before and compiled breaks of 54, 61 and 76 in the following two frames to complete an emphatic success.

"I don't think there is much room for improvement in my game," Parrott said. "The penny has really dropped with me when it comes to winning. I am so used to being involved at top level now that I know what is required."

Stephen Hendry, attempting to become UK champion for the third time since 1989, went into the concluding session of his quarter-final level with Alan McManus at 4-4, after winning two frames on the black with substantial clearances.

Parrott, after winning two tournaments already this sea-

with Immense RELIEF, Sir Charles found THE TAYLOR'S Completely UNAFFECTED...

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